

THE
MEMOIRS
OF
WALTER PRINGLE
OF
GREENKNOW;

Darro Aithen R, March 1723

Some few of the free Mercys of God to him,
and his Will to his Children, left to them
under his own Hand.

First written over out of the Original, by James
Pringle of Greenknow, 1684. And from thence
carefully transcribed.

Gen: 18. 19. For I know him, that he will com-
mand his Children, and his Household after him,
and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do Jus-
tice and Judgement.

EDINBURGH,

Printed in the Year, 1723.



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To the Reader.

Christian Reader,

Seing there is nothing for its Usefulness, more advantageous, for its Purity more cleanly, for its Ornament more comely, for its Excellency more acceptable to God, than pure Religion, & undefil'd, which bringeth Salvation with it: It is sadly to be lamented by all, that in this Day, the Power of Godliness is not only much neglected, the Hearts of the most Part being glew'd to this World: But Religion even amongst Professors, is turn'd to a meer Form and empty Shadow; The Universality & Prevalency of which Evil, may make us cry out with bitter lamentation, alas! upon too good ground, that our gold is become dim, our Silver Dross, & our Wine not only mixt, but almost degenerate into Water, all Flesh corrupting their Ways more & more daily, from the highest to the lowest, secular Interest's pursu'd with full Might, by Ways destructive to Religion. But Oh! this Sighing & Going backward, is not of Yesterday, which is acknowledged by all, but laid to Heart rightly, by very few. It is long since the Glory of the Lord, began to depart from this sinful Land; yet the Want of his Presence, & the Restraint of the Spirit of Grace, is little bewail'd, so as to make narrow Search into the Procuring Causes thereof, which are many for their Number, as well as highly aggravating for their Circumstances. And because we have dealt very corruptly against the Lord, and have not kept the Commandments, Statutes nor Judgements, which he commanded; Therefore hath he left us to walk in Counsels of our own, hence our Day goeth away, and our Night approacheth apace.

Why these following Memoirs are now expos'd to publick View, so long after the worthy Author's Death, there is no Need to be scrupulously careful in giving an Account; especially, seeing the Character of this godly Gentleman is already well known by his valiant, and heroick Appearances, in Defence of the covenanted Reformation, his Name being once, and again insert, amongst the Honourable Remonstrators and Protesters. It's true indeed, the Holyest of Men, do ordinarily, most veil themselves, with a modest Shyness of communicating these Privacies of their own Souls; and take special Care to conceal them, while alive: Thus it was, with this Pious Gentleman,

Gentleman, as the following *Memoirs*, and his *Inscription* upon them shew viz. *Some of the free Mercies of God to me, and, My Will to my Children &c.* Importing their intended Use, was to represent his great Concern, for the advancing of Christ's Kingdom in general; as well as his becoming Care and Diligence, in leading an holy, and exemplary Life, before his own Children and Family, in particular.

'Tis presum'd none will be offended at the Publication hereof, the Design being innocent, the Thing cannot be culpable, and tho' the Censorious may, as is very common, disgust some Expressions, yet a Soul rightly acquainted with the Life and Power of Religion, may easily perceive this Gentleman hath made Religion his assiduous Exercise, and so will construct favourably of any seemingly unguarded Expressions. Altho' the Work (which carries sufficient Commendation with it) be owing intirely to the Gentleman, or rather the Grace of God, in Him, The making it publick; is from the Advice and earnest Desire of some Judicious Godly Persons, endeavouring in some measure to bear Testimony against the abounding Sins in this Day; as the Cloud of Witnesses, and this Religious Gentleman did in their Day. The Manuscript from which this is published, was taken from, and compar'd with the most Correct Copy that could be had.

Here are tabled such lively Representations of Faith, Love, Hope, Zeal for Christ, Heavenly Mindedness, Meekness, Self-denial, intire Resignedness to the Will of God, in their first & continu'd Motions; as may make the Reader admire, the wonderful Love and Condescension of God in Christ, and ambitious of Experiencing, How an Heart touch'd from above, works, and tends thither ward, how it depresses it self in Humiliation, dilates it self in Love, lifts up it self in Praise, submits it self under Chastisings, and Reproaches, and draws in it's Refreshings, and Supplies, as there is Need.

That the God of all Grace, who supported this Gentleman in all his sharp Tryals, Perils, Imprisonments, Reproaches, and Difficulties of various Kinds, and enabled him to bear all with invincible Patience, and Meekness; being for his Name's Sake, may bless the following *Memoirs* to every Reader, as they have been to those of the House of Greenknow, &c. is sincerely desired.

THE
MEMOIRS
OF
WALTER PRINGLE.

Some few of the free Mercys of GOD, to Me
(who am most unworthy) and my Will to my
Children; left to them under mine own Hand.

At *Greenknow*, on Saturday *August 2d. 1662*, be-
ing a private Fast Day to me.

S E C T. I.



SINCE my God gave me Children;
it hath been much upon my
Mind, to record (for their Use)
the Wonderful Goodness of God
to me : Which I have delayed to
do for some Years; so that now
(unless preventing Mercy help)
I shall not get it so performed,
as once I might, when the Work-
ings of God, were frether upon my
Spirit, than at this present Time.
Yet I will not limit my Holy One, who can, and (in due
Time) will send the Comforter to bring to my Remem-
brance

brance what is needful; then shall I declare the Riches of his free Grace to me, the Chief of Sinners. However I will labour as the Lord (without whom I can do no good) shall give it me, to stir up, and exhort my Children, to flee from the Wrath, which is coming upon a lost World; and to lay hold on the offered Salvation. But (knowing mine own Weakness) I would not offer to do any Thing of this Kind, were it not to my Children, who (I hope) will bear with mine Infirmities, and (if any Thing escape me) will do as *Shem* and *Japheth* did to their Father. But (if there be any Mockers among my Children) I trust this shall not come into their Hands, That is a cursed Child indeed, who dare mock at the Words of a Father (tho' but minting at Truth) Especially when he is dead: For I do not intend, that this shall come unto any of you, untill I be gone out of this Life. So I hope my Words may then have some weight with you. Oh! to have you all to enter in, with your Mother and Me, to these Mansions, which our Blessed Lord hath prepared, for all them, that love Him. Will any of you be so mad, as to separate your Selves from that joyfull & glorious Company? I believe that those of you who die in your Childhood shall be saved, Through the Riches of the free Grace of God in Jesus Christ. But if any of you perish (being come to Age) your Destruction will be of your selves: For you must look to receive according to your Faith, and Works; By Faith we are saved: And where Faith is, There will be Works also; If any Man love our Lord, he will keep his Commandments. O how all the Truths of God are linked together! It is not in the Power of Enemies to break that Chain: though it hath been their Endeavour since the Beginning, and will be unto the End. Yet Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but on jot, or one Tittle of the Word of God shall in no ways fall to the ground. My Children read the Scriptures diligently: and pray for the Spirit of Truth, that you may understand them; For although they are plain and easie, unto such as are taught of God (though they were but Babes) yet are they hid from the Wise and Prudent of this World. Oh! they are not happy, whom the World doth esteem to be so: For what is the Honour, and what are the Riches and pleasures of this World, but as a busked Hook, which many Times doth

doth draw the poor Soul to dreadful destruction ? This is the Broad Way, wherein many are walking ; But strive ye to walk in the narrow Way, which leadeth unto Life : Then shall it be better with you than the Tongues of Angels, and Men can express. This Truth my Soul doth believe : And I leave it unto you subscribed with the Hand of your Father.

Sic subscribitur, Wa: Pringle.

*Blessed be my God, who hath helped me to begin this Work:
And who I trust will perfect it.*

S E C T. II. Aug: 27. 1662.

SOME have Wisdom, and others have Learning, which doth help them to bring forth that which may be esteem'd of, either for the Matter, or for the Language: But as for me, I can neither speak, nor write Sense; if God help me not: Also I am of a lazie Disposition, and cannot pray, nor meditate, nor Write, except my Holy One stir me up to it, I have therefore cause to bless him, whenever I am helped to any Religious Exercise. I will now offer to mention somewhat of the Lord's way with me. In my Childhood, tho' I was much indulged by my Parents, and greatly given to playing: Yet now and then I had some far off Looks towards God, beginning to pray unto him: once especially, I remember at the North-East End of *Stitch-hil-hall* (before there were any New Building or a Garden there) my Heart was for a short Time, very much drawn forth toward God, finding Fellowship with him sweeter than all Things else, which could not be attained without the pardon of Sin, so I was led to desire that, and did also beg grace to watch over my Heart, that such a frame might not depart from me; and for some Time I did watch as carefully over my Thoughts and Words, as ever I did since.

Perhaps I could not at that Time express these Things so distinctly, but sure I am I felt them more lively, and fully, than now I can declare. Blessed for ever be he who looked upon me in my low State; I was often led also, to acknowledge God, in my childish Concernments; such as, the getting of my Lesson, or being freed from Reproofs; frequently praying to escape Correction, when I expected it: It is now

My Wonder, That I should then have so acknowledged a Power above Man's, ruling the smallest of his Actions; and far more the greatest. When now I believe this, what should trouble or move me? It is my wise and mighty God, my gracious and loving Father in Christ, that ruleth Heaven and Earth, and all the Children of Men, and without him, a Hair of mine Head, or of the Heads of any of his People, cannot fall to the Ground; That which is or shall be, both is, and shall be according to his Will: This is my Rest, and here with am I satisfied: Let me, and all his chosen Ones, ever be so. What will become of all you, who have no Interest in this alone Governour? If you have a Shadow of Prosperity, it will but last for a Moment, and not so much, if it be compared with Eternity. for a Moment, when it is so compared, is not a Moment; and then when your not a Moment is past, what will you do? Oh! they have got a great Length, who believe there is such a Thing, as Heaven, and Hell; and do sit down to ponder these Truths seriously: Many say, and imagine, That they believe them, but do it not; for, if they did, they would either be under the Terror of the one, or Joy of the other: Yea, the full Persuasion thereof, would distract those who are under Wrath, and ravish the Heirs of Glory. My Children ponder these Things, for, however I utter them, verily of themselves they are most weighty.

S E C T. III. *September 6th. 1662.*

THUS was I kept under Convictions, from (as I remember) the Time, I was 7 or eight Years of Age, until I was 12, or 13, the Love and Fear of God ruling my Heart in some Measure; about the End of which Time, when I was about 11 Years of Age, my precious Brother went with me to *Stirling*, where I was a Year or two taught by that eminent and pious Minister Mr. *James Lockie*, who at that Time, could get no Entrance into a Church, because he would not conform to the Bishops. He was removed by Death about the Time of the Covenant. As long as I was his Scholar, I did profite very well in Learning, for it was pleasant unto me, he had such a good Method of teaching; as also he had very much of my Heart: But most of all it was his Work to instruct us in the Ways of God, keeping a good Order in his

Family,

Family, in which I was with 13, or 14 others. He used to cause us get many of the Psalms by Heart, desiring us to repeat them to our selves, after we went to Bed. I remember my Rest was never so sweet to me, as when I had repeated them, and used some other Devotion; I have many Times then rested, as under the Shadow of the Loving-kindness of God. Blessed be he for ever, who so shin'd upon me.

S E C T. IV. November 1st. 1662.

I was not a little sensible of the Death of that worthy Man, whom the Lord took up to Mount Pisgah, as it were, to see the Land (to wit, the Work of Reformation) a far off; after the first News whereof, he was taken into his Rest. After that I made no Progress in Learning, neither was I so kept in the Ways of God; though sometimes good Thoughts were born in upon me, and I was kept in the Love of powerful Preaching. Often I have been refreshed, by hearing Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* Minister of *Lilfrie*, whose Scholar I was in the Year 1638, who did frequently shed Tears, while he was preaching; At that Time 9 or 10 of us did formally bind our selves together, in a Bond of Brother-hood and Love; in which, we also engaged our selves to the national Covenant. I mention these Things, because I love not to forget, or to break these Tyes which we came under, even when we were but Children: Since the Thing in it self was lawful, altho' may be, it was rashly gone about by us, at that Time. In the Year 1639, I was at *Leith* School, then did youthful Lusts and Corruptions begin to prevail over me, being stronger in me than the Grace of God. I will not mention my particular Abominations; for what God hath hid and covered, I will not reveal: Only to mine own Shame, and to his Praise, who spared me, and had Mercy upon me, I confess that for ten Years together, I was the chief of Sinners; yet was I never without Conviction, knowing that I was not then in the Way of Peace, and Life; and that if I should have died, in such a Case, at that Time, Damnation would have been my Lot. Often in this Persuasion have I gone on in Hazards, in the Wars and otherways, and thus have I slept about the Brink of the bottomless Pit, out of which there is no returning, for them who once fall into it: But blessed for

ever

ever be my God, who had then a merciful Eye upon me, and Thoughts of Love unto me. These Years of Darkneſs, Deadneſs, and Sinfulneſs, one of them was ſpent, or rather loſt, in *Leith*, two at *Edinburgh College*, five at Home and in the Wars (being a Volunteer) and two in *France*. Seldom all this Time, had I the Confidence to pray unto God, or to worſhip him: Alas! That I ſhould have lived ſo long without him in the World! O! That I may now be ſo much the more diligent, in redeeming my Time.

S E C T. V. *November 19th. 1662.*

ALL this Time of my fearful going aſtray, I had a Love to the Godly, and a high Eſteem of my worthy Brother, whoſe Memory is ſweet to me. He often ſpoke edifyingly to me, and ſometimes I had Freedom to open my Caſe to him: I cannot forget his loving Parling with me, when I went to *France*; where I had not ſtayed a Year, until I was ſtricken with the News of his Deceafe, which made me go alone in the Fields a whole Day. having none to ſhare with me in my Grief (altho' I had much Love of the *French*, and there were none there but *French*) for none knew the great Loſs which I ſuſtained: I then thought, that the Death of no Friend would ever afterwards move me; and in ſome Meaſure I have found it ſo, for when any of my Friends are removed, ordinarily my firſt Thoughts are, My dear Brother is gone: But why ſhould this trouble me? for I ſhall ſoon go to him, and (which is moſt of all) to his God, & my God; I am ſure it is not the worſe for me, that he is gone before me; altho' I cannot ſay it is to prepare a Place for me, bleſſed for ever be my Lord, who hath taken upon himſelf that Work. O how much doth his Love ſurpaſs all Created Love! My God, liſt up my Soul above all Creatures unto thy ſelf that I may love thee, and adore thee; I know this ſhall be my pleaſant Work for evermore. Oh! my Children taſte and ſee how pleaſant a Thing it is to know, and enjoy God in Jeſus Chriſt. I am as one got into a good Habitation, and would fain have you with me. O! how ſweet is the Life of a Chriſtian, even while in this World? while I am now in the Body, I earneſtly deſire to perſuade you of theſe Truths, for I ſhall not come back out of Heaven, that I may declare

unto you the Joys which are there for ever: God hath not appointed that Way, but hath given unto you the Words of *Moses* and the *Prophets*, and the Words which our LORD spake when he was in the Flesh, and the Words of his Apostles, and if you will not believe these; *Verily neither will ye believe though one should rise from the Dead.* You cannot glorify God more, than by believing; and what if I say, That they glorify him most, who upon least Ground (to express it so) trust him; *Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.* For which of these, think ye honoureth a King most? He that trusteth his simple Word, or he that will have Word, Oath and Write for it: The thousand Part of a Word, from the holy One, who cannot lie, is more sure than all those from Man. But blessed be God, who doth so condescend to our Weakness, as not only to give us his Word, but his Oath also, *That by two immutable Things, in which it was impossible for him to lie, we might have strong Consolation, who have fled for Refuge, to lay hold upon the Hope set before us.* O! dear Children, hasten, yea hasten to fly from Wrath into that Hope; least the other Oath pass forth, *viz. Least he swear in his Wrath, That ye shall not enter into his Rest.* O depart not from the living God! this I exhort you unto, while it is called to Day.

S E C T. VI. November 24th. 1662.

IN June 1642, I came home from France, and was much pressed by my loving Father to Marrie, several were spoken of to me, but I could not incline so much as to go and see any, untill the good Providence of my God led me to see my Wife, at her Brother in Law *Whitebank*, his house of *Blackhaugh*, where I went to stay a Night with my Old and Intimate Acquaintance; without the least purpose of seeing her, or any other. And (altho' I had been ten in her Brother's House) yet had not seen her: Neither did I think that he had a Daughter for Marriage, though I loved the Family) but I found it otherways, and from this Time my Affection was to her. But that was only from the Lord, may appear by the Accidentness of my going there: For I had been in *Edinburgh* with my Father, who (hearing of his Brother *Newbal's* Sick,

Sickness) sent me out to see him, and *Whitebank* came to *Newball* to me, and took me home with him that Night. Blessed be my God, who thus guided me in this, which is of most Concernment of any Thing within Time; yea it may be said it is of Eternal Concernment to you our Children: For she not only is instant in instructing you in the Fear, Knowledge, and Love of God, when you are come to be in any measure capable, (as your Selves are Witnesses) but also she putteth up many Prayers for you; yea often before you came forth of her Belly. Likewise by her holy Walking before you, She sheweth forth in her own Conversation, that whereunto she doth so much exhort you. What will become of you, if ye slight all this? Seeing your Mother is speaking to you the Words of the Kingdom, while she is yet alive with you. And I (after I am gone) by this, still pressing you to come out from a World and from your Natural State, and to enter into, and come through the New-Birth; without which you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. It is true God worketh in us both to will and to do; but it is your part to wait at Wisdom's Gates; and to lay hold on his Strength, that you may make Peace with him, and to go unto him that you may have Life. Blessed be he who willeth not the Death of a Sinner, but sayeth unto you, *why will ye die!* Hear his Voice, and obey it, then shall you live forever, so be it.

S E C T. VII. December 18. 1662.

THIS mine Affection, I kept secret within mine own Breast; fearing, That my Father (because of the smallness of the Portion) would not give his Consent, without which, I was resolved never to marry: But atlast my Father (finding me averse from any he mentioned to me) began to suspect, That my Mind was that Way, and when he posed me upon it, I confessed it unto him, and so great was his Tenderness unto me, that he consented and gave me Way to propose it; which I did to her self and her Friends, having never spoken of it to them before; and appointed a Meeting with them at *Edinburgh*, for that Effect: For which and other Business my Father went in; but the next Day, before he had met with any of her Friends, he was seized upon by Sicknes, and

within

within 14 Days in the Beginning of May 1649. He was very peaceably removed from a Troublesome World; I trust into Life Eternal. Thus I was left (being 24 Years of Age, and having little Experience in the Affairs of the World) with the Oversight of Eight of my dear Brother's Children, & a Sister's Son; My Care was to discharge a faithful Duty to them: Tho' the last of these, hath other Thoughts at this Time, and is prejudg'd against me: I beg Forgiveness to him, from God, who is my Witness, that I never wrong'd him, in a Farthing, to my Knowledge. Yea I had rather quite all, that I have in the World, than bear such a Sting in my Conscience, and defile my Soul, with that which is evil. Blessed be my God, I'm free from any such Things: some there are, who know the Truth of my Innocency, and that a just Accompt, was given of his Estate. The Profession I have walk'd in, these 14 Years, obligeth me to say this much. As also the Desire, I have that you my Children should live Righteously in this present World, maketh me clear up to you, what may seem to be otherways in my self: yea my Study is, to have always a *Conscience void of Offence toward God and toward Men*. And dear Children, what will it profit any of you, tho' you could gain the whole World, if you lose your own Souls? O! but a holy and upright walk with God and Men, will bring you unexpressable Peace of Mind: which will be unto you a continual Feast. This is that which maketh a Man, bold as a Lion, for, when the World doth challenge, and condemn, God doth absolve. And what if our Righteousness should not (as it will in a great Measure) be cleared up, until the great Day of Judgement come? May we not rest satisfied till then? Oh my Children so live, as with joy of Heart, you may wait for, and expect that Day; And never judge it, well with you, until you win to such a Frame, for every good and Faithful Servant, joyfully waiteth for his Master's coming. Ponder these Things.

S E C T. VIII. December 2d. 1662.

I Must mention here, that immediately after I had written what is above said, in our Family Exercise, Yesterday
 B Morning

Morning, the first Word read by my worthy Friend, the Messenger of the Lord, Mr. Luke Ogle, (who is here for the Time.) was *Isai: 26. 7. The Way of the Just is Uprightness: Thou most Upright, dost weigh the Path of the Just; And is not this most suitable to that, which I have been saying, by way of Vindication? Five Months past, after my Father's Decease, e're I proceeded in my Marriage; In which Time, I had good Days at a Communion in Lauder, which was the last, which that precious Servant of GOD, Mr. James Guthrie (whom I may call my Father in the Gospel, if any Man may be so call'd) had in that Place, And altho' my Wife, now, was there, at that Time: Yet I remember, I had scarce on Thought of her, all these three Days; though I had very much of that, which is called Love. After that Time I was led into a more close way of walking with my God, than formerly: Sometime seeing Mr. Guthrie, to whom I made known my purpose of Marriage, asking his Advice; He desired to understand if I knew any Thing of a Work of Grace in her Heart, which he said was most necessary, and that her having a good Woman to her Mother, was not enough to me; But I was engaged before this, and have nothing to ascribe to mine own Prudence or Foresight: But very much, yea more than can be expressed, to the Goodness of my God: Who, not only gave me a good Wife, but also made it appear to me, that she was so, before our Marriage; For, after we were Contracted, by a wonderful Passage of his Providence, casting her into Sickness, which she herself, and we also thought might have prov'd Deadly, She then spake freely of her Soul's Concernments: Whereby the Lord's Working upon her Spirit, did fully appear to me, and my Scruple I had, was then remov'd. When I remember this, I must glorifie the Name of my God, Praise be to him for ever more. My Children I advise you (when you read, what I write in this Book) to read no more than one Days Writing, at one Time, which you see is but very little: For I desire to be very serious in this, that I do; and intreats, that you may be so in Reading. I commit all unto God; who can work upon you by Means, and without Means.*

IN November, 1649. We were Married, at *Stow*, by that Renowned Mr. *James Guthrie*. My Wife remain'd in *Tor-wood-lie*, about six Months: And thereafter came home to *Stitchill*, where we stay'd Five Years with my Mother, and with us, there were five of my Brother's Children, (for *Elizabeth* stay'd always with her Mother, and the two youngest Sons, were remov'd by Death) My Sister's Son, and my dear Friend Mr. *James Aird*, during this Time, we had a very Loving, Sweet and Peaceable Society. My Wife did grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of God, of which, She is more able to give an Account, than I am. If before that Time, she was last, yet I'm sure since, she is first; and far more able to declare the Wonderful Riches of the Goodness of God, than I am; Yet it's not my Part to be silent, in this Matter, for blessed be He, who is ever willing, and ready to let forth abundantly unto me: But Oh! my narrowness and Slackness, in receiveing from Him! Yet I shall glory in mine Infirmities, if he be exalted, who was, is, and shall be for ever glorious in himself, and nothing else is so; for all the Creatures are more or less glorious, according as they enjoy of, and give Glory unto him. The Angels and Saints in Glory, delight in nothing more, than in declaring that all they have is from him; His Infinite Wisdom, Power and Goodness brought them and us, who are here below, out of Nothing, that we may forever be Happy in Him. O! for an enlarged Heart to praise him. Should I not bless mine own Lips, when they are opened to shew forth his Praises, and the Hand, which doth write them down? O! that I may never love my self, but that he may be exalted in me, and by me, that is to love him only. O! sweet Ravishment, to be ravish'd with his Love. My Children I assure you, that other Lovers will not, neither can satisfy you; For they are vain and finite. But begin ye sincerely to love God, and upon my Life (this great Word I express to hold forth the Certainty of this Truth) the more you love him, the more shall you desire, to love and enjoy him, Then shall you set to your Seal, that God is true, and that his Word is so also. Then shall you say, *Now we believe, Not because of thy Saying:*

For

For we have heard him our Selves, and know that this is Christ the Saviour of the World.

S E C T. X. December 25th. 1662.

UNTIL the *English* Army came into *Scotland*, I was much taken up with Suits of Law for my Pupils, being always a Defender; But now and then, I had sweet Moments, even while I was attending at great Mens Doors. It was no small Affliction to me that I got so seldom staid at Home, where I had so much Ground of outward Contentment, and inward Advantage to my own Spirit: But this I endeavoured to bear as my Cross. When the *English* came in, I went to our Army, and had my Mother, my Wife, and the Children in *Edinburgh*, until we were defeat at *Dumbar*, after which I brought them Home to *Stitchil*; and my Wife being big with Child, I staid with her until she was delivered of our Daughter *Kathrin*, upon the 10th. Day of *November* 1656: the next Day a Party of the *English* came in, and took up all this Country; where upon I went and staid 8 Days in, and about *Torewoodlie*, then being accompanied with my Brother *Torewoodlie*, I came in the Night Time to see my Wife; And as we were returning back, it was my Lot to rencounter one of the *English* upon Horse Back, whom I killed, knowing that I could not get a Prisoner carried to our Army, for we had Difficulty to get to it our selves: And that which cleared me the more in this was, That he never asked Quarters: But what of Rashness was herein, I believe assuredly, That the Lord my God hath pardoned it; and that it is done away in, and through *Jesus Christ* my Savior, who hath saved me from many grievous Transgressions, and Sins, which cannot be numbered, to whom I desire daily to run, as unto a Spring of living Waters, A Fountain opened for Sin and for Uncleaness, and one who hath the Words of eternal Life. In him I desire always to be found Not having mine own Righteousness: but that which is by Faith in him: This is that new and living Way. Blessed for ever be the Father of my Lord *Jesus Christ*, who drew me into him, and will now guide me by his Counsel, and afterwards receive me into Glory. The Building of the Temple was denyed to *David*, because he had been a Man of War, and had shed Blood; it is good to

is be tender of the Lives of the smallest living Creatures, but much more of Man's Life, not thrusting out the immortal Soul, which returneth not again within Time; for the best of Men may say, *Spare me a little, That I may recover Strength, before I go hence, and be no more.* These and other Considerations move me to advise you, my Sons, to embrace any other lawful Employment, rather than to be Souldiers: But I will not wholly lay this Bond upon you, since I don't esteem it to be unlawful; for if it had been so, our blessed Lord's Forerunner, *John the Baptist*, would have said more to these Souldiers, who enquired at him, what they should do, then commanded them to *be content with their Wages &c.* In our Time we have seen pious Men in that Employment: And I believe, That there is a Time coming, wherein *HOLINESS shall be written upon the Horses Bridles. And far more shall it be written upon the Riders.* Only, my Sons, if ever in any Part of the World, you engage in this Employment, be sure to have on your Side, the LORD GOD of HOSTS, That whither you live or die, it may be unto him.

S E C T. XI. *December 31st. 1662.*

THis preceeding Account, is one of the most considerable Passages of my Life; and upon it dependeth much of my Christian Walk, as may afterwards appear; and therefore I have mentioned it. After this I spake with my worthy Friend Coll. *Gilbert Ker*, at *Glasgow*, to whom I purposed to return, when once I had been at *St. Johnstoun*. At *Stirling*, I advised with my dear Friend Mr. *James Guthrie*, anent mine own, and my Brother's Children (to whom that faithful Man had ever a most tender Respect) their Concernments; then I went to *St. Johnstoun*, where I had not stayed eight Days, until the News came of the total Defeat of Collonel *Ker's* Forces, at *Hamiltoun*. I remained at *St. Johnstoun*, until the Castle of *Edinburgh* was to be rendered to the *English*, and my own, and my Pupils, their Writes being there, I took Occasion to come over to *Edinburgh*, upon our Chancellour's Pass, and from thence I came Home to *Stitchill*; where I was not many Days, until the *English* got Knowledge of me, and of that which I had done; whereof, and of their Purpose to

to apprehend me, I was advertised, tho' I had not the least Inclination to go from Home, yet being pressed by my Friends, I went to *Northumberland*, and stayed some few Days, in my Cusin Major *Pringle's* House; after which, I returned Home, and expected every Day to have been taken, if not worse; For I was informed, That the Man who was killed, had Friends who made many Vows to be avenged; but Nothing could move me in the Frame of Spirit, where in I was: Yea, many a Time, I then thought, That I could as willingly have opened the Buttons of my Breast, to receive Death's Stroke, as ever I did, to go to Bed. At length a Party of Horse came and took me, and kept me Prisoner that Night at *Dernick*; where (I will never forget) it was my Ordinar, to read the 100 Psalm, which I did with very much Joy and Peace; although (as to the outward) it was the darkest Hour of Trouble, which I have had in my Life: I was alone with them all that Night, for these of the House, I knew not. The next Morning my Mother in Law came to see me, and that Day I was carried to *Salkirk*, and examined by Major *Robertson*, of whose Regiment the Man had been; I deny'd nothing, but pleaded, That I was a Soldier, standing upon Defence of my Country, from the Invasion. Afterwards I was let go, upon my Father in Law, and *Whitebank* their Bond of 2000 *Lib. Sterling* Penalty, that I should compear again: All this Time, my true Friend Mr. *James Aird* was most diligent and careful, in soliciting the chief Officers at *Edinburgh* for me; and rode many Miles for that Business; which Love of his, I, and mine should ever remember: And therefore, I thus mention it; He did what was done, yet little Assurance could be had from Men of my Life; for when I went secretly to *Edinburgh*, and laid the Business, as it stood, before my worthy Lord *Waristoun*, he advised me not to compear, and so did others; but I could never agree to that, but gave up my self into the Hands of my God, without whom, I knew a Hair of my Head could not fall, and who ruled over them who sought my Life. The rest of this I must leave till the next Occasion, which may be to Morrow, if God give it, and spare me; Unto his holy Will I ever desire to submit.

AT last, the Chief Officers were content to refer the Matter, to the Captain of whose Troop the Man had been, to whom my Mother very speedily payed a Hundreth and Fifty Pound *Sterling*, for the Use of the Man's Friends, as they pretended. In all this, I was wholly Passive: For all was done by Mr. *Aird*, only my Mother payed the Money at *Torwoodlie*, where the Captain had his Quarters. I had never a sweeter Time, in my Life, than this was, being fully assur'd, that whatever way it went, it should be well: For I sought nothing, but to have God, to be my God, And blessed for ever be he, who gave himself to me; and gave me full Submission to his Will: Yet I was not without some Submissive Desires, that He would free me out of that Trouble: For I thought if I should come to lose my Life, it would not be a clear Suffering for the Name of Jesus Christ; Especially, seeing some made it then their Trade, to kill them for their Purfes; but that was not my Case, for I would touch nothing of his but his Arms, O! what a Happiness I thought it was for one to lay down their Life for Christ. These Considerations mov'd me to think that if God would deliver me, and lengthen my Days, I should be wholly his, and at his Disposal; many a Time I have vow'd so to be, both then, and since, and here I do renew my Vows, setting it down under my Hand: That (God without whom I can perform nothing) Strengthening me, I shall forsake Houses, Lands, Possessions, Country, Friends, Wife, Children, Life, and all for him: To whom oftener than once or twice, I have given all that seemeth to be mine; Which now, I profess; I enjoy as lent by him to me, whose Voice I hear say to me, **OCCUPY TILL I COME.** LORD and MASTER help me so to do: And now not only these outward Things, do I give unto thee my God, but (which is far more than all these) even the Eternal Life of my Soul, as a Token of my Love to thee, and I trust in thee, who will make all to work together for my Good, both here and hereafter. So that in this my resigning up of my Life unto thee. I shall be no Loser; For it is to one that will keep it better than I can: But I will not spend my Care upon that only, I pray, Father keep me from sinning

finning against thee, and keep me in thy Love always And when *I* think that *I* stand, help me to take Heed lest *I* fall, and help me always to mind the good of thy People Praying for the peace of thy *Jerusalem*. My Children, whom for a while *I*'ve forgotten, Oh! strive to enter within the Walls of this *Jerusalem*: For Peace shall only be there and Prosperity within her Palaces.

S E C T. XIII. *January 31st. 1663.*

IN the Year 1651. *I* became a constant Hearer of that lively Man *Mr. John Livingstoun*, going every Sabbath-Day from *Stitchill* to *Ancrum*. By the Way *I* have had many a sweet Hour, and *I* ever heard him with great Delight and Profit to my Soul. Always esteeming the Word spoken by him, not to be his, but God's. Beyond any that ever *I* knew, he hath brought his Wisdom, Learning & Parts (whereof he hath a very large Share) most in Subjection to God. So that not by these, but by the Movings of the Spirit of Truth, did he speak out of the Abundance that was in his Heart; therefore (through the Goodness of God) his Words did reach into the Hearts of others, but in a Word, he hath seen the Glory of God, and doth speak what he hath seen and heard. *I* am Debtor, more than *I* can express, to this worthy Man; for (beside the hearing of him preach) *I* have had sweet Fellowship with him, ever delighting in his Company; And once when *I* was lying in one Bed with him, at *Eglingham*, about the Middle of the Night, *I* awaked with most sweet Breathings upon my Spirit, which caused me to shed Tears, with much Joy upon my Pillow: This *I* revealed not to him; and here *I* mention it without any Observation, lest *I* should seem to be positive, in that which is not yet understood. Now this precious Man is banish'd out of these Lands, by the Lords of Council. As a Child from a Father: did *I* part with him at *Leith*, upon the 14th. Day of this present Month: Yet nothing of this doth trouble me, but the Fear *I* have of what the Lord God may be minding, by banishing such shining Lights out of the Land: If it be his Will to remove his Glory out of this, and our Neighbouring Lands, That he may plant it among some others of the Nations of the Earth: *I* willingly submit to his SO-

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VERACITY. Only *I* pray that 'my poor Children, and the Children of the Faithful in thir Lands (whom *I*'m bound to remember) may be taken away to reside in the Place, where the Name of our God shall be. And if it be his holy Will, that our Carcasses should fall in the Wilderness, we not seeing any more of these good Days, which we have seen, nor of the glorious Days, which are coming, so be it. Yet, Oh; Lord God cause the Posterity enter *IN*, and let them not be Rebellious, as we have been. Yet do *I* not know how soon his Wonderful Mercys may prevent us, Oh! to, believe we should then see all Things to be possible. O! for a Spirit of Prayer to be pour'd out upon his People in these Lands, that we may take hold of him; not letting him depart, for there is room enough (so to speak in our) Father's House, for these and other Nations of the Earth also.

S E C T. XIV. February 28th. 1663.

I Came from *Stitchhill*, to remain at *Greenknow*, in *March* 1655. After which *I* was no more a constant Hearer of *Mr. John Livingstoun*, being taken up with Worldly Business through the Week, my Desire was to rest on the Sabbath, that is, to bring in my Mind, from off all Things else, to think on my God; So striving to be still, that *I* might know that he alone is God. *Psal: 46. 10.* Which once was a Rich Place to me: And whereupon, *I* have often sed, for these several Years past, *I* had never any Doubt, which did not presently vanish, when once *I* believed that Truth, of all Truths, that God is, then did *I* believe the whole Truths, which are contained in the Scriptures, and then was *I* quick'ned, and strength'ned for every Duty; But often in one Day would this Truth be with me, and from me: Not that ever *I* fell into that height of Atheism, as fully to deny God; But often have *I* wanted the present full Persuasion of his Being, whereof *I* have been more fully assured, than of mine own, & that not because *I* have been brought up with the hearing others say so: But bless'd for ever be He, who hath often made every Pyle of Grass, and every moving Creature Yea, what ever *I* did see with my Eye, or touch with my Hand, to preach forth unto me His Infinite Power, Wisdom, Goodness, and Glory. My Soul rejoiceth in the Faith, and

& full Assurance of this, that he is, & that he is a *Rewarder of all them that diligently seek Him*. Oh ! my dear Children, strive to be of that happy and blessed Number, whose Reward is not yet known, *For now are we the Sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be*. Take God for your Guide, and he will lead you safely into his Glory. Others may point at the Way, but who can carry a Soul through the many Difficulties of this Life ; and far less through the Valley and Shadow of Death, but God alone ? Who can clear up every Doubt, turning Darkness into Light, Weakness into Strength and Death unto Life, giving a Being unto Things which are not. My Children know Him, adore Him, and believe in Him, that ye may have it to say, *Now we believe*, not because of our Father ; and others their Sayings, but having *heard Him, our Selves*, we know indeed that he is the *Saviour of the World*, need you not this Salvation ? If you can say, that you are happy without God, then do not seek after Him : But O ! none can have such a fearful Thought in their Heart, and the Conscience (which is God's Witness) not accusing them of their abominable Lying. And now seeing there is no Happiness, true Joy, nor Peace but in God, Arise and seek it in Him through Jesus Christ forsaking all other Lords, and Masters, for you cannot serve two.

S E C T. XV. *March 16th. 1663.*

Blessed be my God, who upon *Tuesday* last gave unto me another Child : To whom I may leave some Word in Record, seeing I know not if I shall live, till he come to Understanding. Although I may say, that there were Prayers put up for thee, before thou cam'st into this World. Yet I will mention what was done at the Time of thy coming into it, I was in the *Inner-Garden*, praying to my God in the Time of my Wife's Travelling, when the News of thy Birth came unto me, and before I came up to see my Wife or had seen thy Face, I bow'd down upon my Knees to Worship, and give Thanks unto God, To Whom I gave thee fully up, in a solemn Manner, Praying that thou might be wholly His, and that He might care for thee, for what is my Care ? or the Care of the Wife'st, or greatest of Men without

Walter Pringle.

without God's Blessing.) This I did at the Plumb-Tree, on the North-side of the Garden Door : I mention the Place, that (if thou come to Years) it may put thee in Mind, after I am gone, of that which was done for thee, in the first Moment of thy coming into the World. It will be a terrible Thing for thee, when thou com'st to have Knowledge of Good and Evil, to deny, or to neglect to give thy Self unto God, contradicting by thy Words, or Deeds, what I have done : And so striving to recall my Word, which thou can'st not recall : For if thou receive not the Truth, it shall be a Witness against thee in the Day of Judgement, and shall add to thy Condemnation : Yea and mine Eye shall not pity thee, tho' now thou art near my Heart, as are, also all the rest of my Children. But I hope for better Things of thee, and that (if thou come to Age) thou wilt Heartily consent to that which thy Father hath promised, and will seal it with thy Holy Life ; And then may'st thou lay hold on this for thine Encouragement, when thou dost serve the God of thy Father, O ! a rich Reward shall be given unto thee, and more than Heaven and Earth shall be thy Portion. with all thy Might, and Speed seek for Life Eternal : For so soon as thou shalt enter into this Life, thou cryed'st Mortality. And Yesterday, being the Day, whereon thou was receiv'd into the Visible Church, and baptized; our Faithful Minister Mr. John Hardie preached upon these Words. Psal. 102. 23. *He shortened my Days*; which was very pertinent Doctrine for a young Pilgrim : For thy Name *Walter*, is high Dutch, and doth signifie, Pilgrim, or Wood-man ; Oh ! that thou and I may live as Pilgrims in this Earth, abstaining from Fleishly Lusts and Pleasures, and travelling towards a City which hath Foundations : Since I understood the meaning of my own Name, it hath been of some Use to me, I pray that it may be so also to thee.

S E C T. XVI, May. 29th. 1663.

IT comes to my Remembrance to mention a Passage, concerning my Eldest Son Robert, how that upon Saturday, the 23d. of April, 1653, being the Day whereon I came home to *Stitchill* from *London*, I heard at *Wooller*, that he was dangerouſlie sick, and (as was thought) could not

be living till I got home: And when I came, I found him at the very point of Death; upon which I went alone to pray for thee my Son (who was then about sixteen Month's Old) and got very much Assurance, that it should be well with thy Soul, if thou should'st be remov'd; and did fully submit to the Will of my God, giving thee freely up unto Him; Yea, desiring that my gracious God would rather be pleased to take thee, then (in thy innocent Days) unto Himself, than to continue thee to live in the World a Stranger, and Enemy to Him. These Thoughts were then more upon my Spirit, than now I can express them. Only my dear Son, with thy whole Might seek Grace from God, that thou may'st fulfill the Desires of thy Father, in living unto God: In so doing alone thou shalt be happy, I know not if I can leave thee, what I presently possess, of the Things of this World, (altho' I think I shall rather add to them, than take from them) Yet I know not but God, who gave them unto me, may take them from me, or call me to forsake them, for his Truths Sake; as some in these Days are call'd, and honour'd to do. Wilt thou be offended at me? If I quite the Things of this Life, (which lasteth but for a Moment) for that Life in Glory, which shall have no End. Oh! my Son, be thou so far from condemning me, (if I receive Grace to make this wise Choice) as to make it thy Self; Then shalt thou be a wise Merchant, when with the Sale of all, thou buyest that inestimable Jewel, the Favour and Peace of God: Then shalt thou find that there is, a Hundred Fold even in this Life (with Persecution) and Life Eternal: O! who knoweth the Worth, or Glory of that Life? have any come back to tell us what these Mansions are? or if they had, would we hear or understand their Relation? it is our best to believe, That now we are the Sons of God; and that it doth not yet appear what we shall be.

Dear Son, think on these Things, until thy Heart be rathred with Love to God, who sent his Son JESUS CHRIST to purchas this GREAT SALVATION. What I say to one, I say to all of you, Love God, and keep his Commandments, which are not grievous. Thus have I spent this Morning, and (God assisting me) shall not spend the Afternoon, in Conforming to the World, in Ranting, and Rioting, and Drunkeness. God pardon this perverse Generation, and warn them to flee from the Wrath to come.

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S E C T. XVII. *August 11th. 1663.*

WHEN first I came to dwell here, it was much upon my Spirit, to intreate my God, who doth appoint the Bounds of every ones Habitation, as *Acts* 17. 26. graciously to shine upon us in this House, and (as then I was led to mention in a Letter to my worthy Brother *Whitebank*) That as the Name of this Place is *Green*, so he might pray the Lord to make it green, and flourish. Many a Prayer was put up to God, in this House, before I came here; and O! That the Name of God may be made Mention of in Truth here, when I'm gone, yea, as long as Sun and Moon endureth: This is a great Request for me to ask, but it is a small Thing for my God to give; for HE is a GREAT KING.

When I came hither, I did more than before, look upon this as mine own Family, having from God received the Charge of it, with my Wife; who in the Service of God, is truly a Helper unto me; For the Family Worship hath been often better performed by her in my Absence, than by me when present: Only it was much upon my Heart, That we should all live together, in the Love and Fear of God, strengthening and helping to build up one another.

I could then have wished never to change one Servant; but when I found that could not be, I was led to think, and hope there might be a good Providence in often changing (I being passive) seeing, That thereby many might hear, and some of these might get a Word cast in; which, though it should ly long hid, as Seed under the Ground, yet through the Goodness of God, might spring up, before the Hour of their Death. However his Word never returneth emptie; for it is either the *Savour of Life*, or *Death*: In both which, God is glorified; and seeing it is so, his Under-labourers should rest abundantly satisfied, when in Sincerity they have done His Work: But, Oh! heartily do I desire to find in Heaven, Monuments (through the Riches of God's free Grace, and infinite Power) of my poor weak Endeavours in the Family, or in this, which I leave to you my Children. I should think my self far, yea, far more happy, if I can be an Instrument of gaining one poor Soul into God

God, than if I should conquer the whole Earth ; for a Man's Happiness doth not consist in these Things, which do last, but for a Time, and do often wear out, before Time be at an End : For, where are these Monuments, Statutes, & Pillars of Brasse, and Marble, which great Men of old rear'd up for a Memory of their Names ? And tho' these were all standing, and their Memories (which they so much esteemed) were yet fresh in this World ; What could all that profite these famous, mighty Men, if their Souls be not in Heaven ? There are lasting and lasting Things, which Time cannot wear away ; Yea, Time cometh not there. My dear Children, O that you and I may so obey God, while we are here in Time, as t'at he may of his free Mercy receive us into that blessed Habitation with himself for ever.

■ S E C T. XVIII. *August 24th. 1663.*

BECAUSE of that which is said in the 9th and 10th. Pages, I will here mention, that upon Wednesday last my Sister's Son *Graden*, came hither, and acknowledged, That he had been in the wrong to me, in alleadging my Mismanagement of his Affairs, and in Obedience to my Lord's Command, I was ready, very freely and heartily to forgive him, which I shall testify, when ever I can be serviceable to him. Blessed be my God, who hath cleared up mine Innocency, in this which I set down here, only to vindicate the Profession of Religion I am under, if again he should change, It will have no Weight, but will be imputed to his Inconsistency. The Men of this World, esteem their Good-name very dear to them : But how much more should Christians ? whose smallest Misbehaviours get the Name of God blasphemed, but by their good Works, the Name of their heavenly Father is glorified. Some Princes Servants will hazard their Lives, and all that they have, for the Credit of their Worm-master : Oh ! how much more should we the Servants of the Almighty, and Infinitely Glorious GOD ? which if we sufficiently knew, we would cry out, Who is sufficient for these things ; & would certainly take good heed to our Goings always, striving to keep our Consciences void of Offence, toward God, and toward Man ; For if one poor Soul minting after God, shall leave off it's Duty, falling up-
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on the stumbling Block of a Christian's Offence; it had been better for that Christian to have been casten into the Depth of the Sea. As he is happy who is instrumental in converting a Soul unto God, how miserable is he, who turneth away a Soul? My God pardon wherein ever I have offended any of the Generation of the Just, or have given just Cause to others to speak against the Way of Truth, and help me in Time to come, to watch and be sober. And O Lord wipe away the Offences of thy People, which have too much abounded, in these Days, through their covetous and selfish Ends; and want of Love one to another; and for thy Name's Sake, bring them out of the Furnace (for they are now in it) as Gold purified; and fit and prepare a People for thy self in the Earth, That thy Will may be done here, as in Heaven; and that it may appear unto the Children of Men, that thou hast not forsaken the Earth, but hast yet many gracious Promises to accomplish, and more glorious Appearances to shew forth, than we or our Fathers have yet seen. O! That I and my Children may be of the Number of those who wait for thy Salvation; and through thy Mercy and Power, may be able to discern thy Coming; and may draw in to thee our blessed Lord; as the Eagles are by natural Instinct led from far to their Food; for many, who think, that they are Friends to thy Truths, will be found Resisters of that Power, wherein thou wilt come: And thy glorious Appearance shall so dazel the Sight of many, That their Shew of Light shall be turned into Darknes. There was never a People more called to Watchfulness, than we in these latter Days are: *The Spirit, and the Bride have been saying come, Oh! to have Oyl in our Lamps;* for our blessed Lord will now soon come. *Let him that heareth, and him that is a thirst say, Come;* And let my Soul always say, *Even so come Lord Jesus.*

S E C T. XIX. September 3d. 1663.

I AM very desirous to hasten through what is past; therefore I only incline to mention shortly, mine Imprisonment in the Castle of *Edinburgh*, upon the 26th. of September 1660, with Sir *Andrew Ker* of *Green-head*, with whom I had very sweet Fellowship for 15 Days; which

was the Time we were in Prison, and one of the sweetest Times I have yet had; for both of us were led forth to rejoice in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and were most willing (through his Grace and Strength) to forsake all for him: The Lord our God keep us ever in the same Mind. Since That Time of our coming out of Prison, I have had very much outward Peace and Quietness; having no Trouble upon me, or my Family, except only the Afflictions of the People of God; with whom I ever desire to sympathize, sorrowing with those of them that sorrow, and being in Bonds with them which are bound. My Plenty is often a Burden to me, when I remember their Wants; and now I know not what this Peace and Plenty may mean, unless that I should be laying up in Store, Grace to help me in the Time of my Need, when my Tryal cometh, and when the Waters shall arise and swell against me: O! That then I may stand fast in the Lord, and may evermore, even to the End, for the Crown is only to such, and they are not worthy to be his Disciples, who will not endure all, deny all for him. Now I know not what is before me, nor what this, or any one Day may bring forth, neither desire I to know but to trust all to the infinite Wisdom, and Goodness of my God, who hitherto hath helped me; and who, I hope, will never leave me to my foolish Wisdom, and weak Strength. O! to know mine Insufficiency, that I may the more know the All-sufficiency of my God: Blessed be my God, whose Promise I have, That he will guide me by his Counsel, while I am here; if this were not; I would cry out, O carry me not hence! But seeing thou art with me, though I be but a Worm, yet I will not fear, but will go on confidently, though I know not whither. O! what a dangerous Journey, are the wisest of the Children of Men going who have not God for their Guide; they may tremble every Moment, and if they fully knew their own Condition, they would be as in the Torments of Hell, until they had an Interest in God. O! how is this blind World rushing on to their own Ruin? my dear Children hasten, hasten, hasten to leave them, and their Way, which leadeth to Death, and look not behind you, Remember Lot's Wife: Ye look not to the best of Men in all their Actions, for they are not perfect Patterns, but have God always before you

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striving to do that which is right in his Sight; and putting your Trust in Him only: And then when he calleth, you may walk on the Waters, and not be afraid, and you may go into a Den of Lions, or to a burning Furnace; Yea, you may go through Death and Judgement, and not be affrighted: If these Things were believed, what would we not do, or suffer, in our Journey? and if we knew Him, who is the Lord of Glory, what would we not undergo, for his blessed Name's Sake. O! my Children, seek a Discovery of Him, in Mercy, and follow on to know him: Then shall ye be happy, and shall with Delight confess. That such a Knowledge of Him, is too wonderful for you, and that you cannot fully attain unto it, for he is INFINITE. O! That you may all be his redeemed Ones. On the last Sabbath at Westruther, it was Joy to my Soul to see one of you (I mean my Daughter *Kathrin*) sit down at the Table of the Lord desirous to eat, and to drink in Remembrance of Him: The Lord God bring these Desires in thee, on to a perfect Flame of Love to Him; & grant that as thou art entered into the Communion of Saints here, so thou may'st be with them in Heaven for ever and ever.

S E C T. XX. October 5th. 1663.

MY Children, since the last Day I wrote here, you have an Aunt gone to Heaven, the Lady *Haining*, who passed from this World, on the 28th. of September last. Many of your Kindred (I trust) are walking in the Way which leadeth to Glory; I know none of your Uncles or Aunts of your Mother's Side and mine, who have come to Age, and have not broken off the Way of the World, which leadeth to Perdition; Yea, all of them are, or have been, Professors of Truth and Holiness; I say have been, for some of them, who shined in their Generation, are now in Perfection shining, before their and our God. O! That we may run after them (that are gone into Glory before us) with all our Might, for the Wrath which we flee from is terrible, and the Prize which is set before us, is great and glorious, and lasteth for ever. Blessed for ever be my God, who of his free Grace, hath so shin'd upon the Families of *Torwoodie* and *Stinchil*. O! That you who come after may

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taste of the same Goodness. *You are compassed about with a great Cloud of Witnesses*, as these which are mentioned, *Heb. 11* and throughout the Scriptures; and all these Martyrs & Saints which have lived since. *O! let us lay aside, every Weight and Sin, and run with Patience the Race, which is set before us; looking* (which is the best Look) *unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith*; We may exceed in our Thoughts of Angels, or Saints; as the Man did, who offer'd to worship the Angel: But we can never think enough of God, for who can reach the End of infinite Glory. *O! when we have wearied our selves with adoring him then let us begin to adore, and worship him; and when our Strength faileth us, let us pray, that he may renew our Strength.* *O! happy are they who constantly move in this Circle.* My Children, when you have once tasted, and know the Sweetness of this Way, you will never desire to move one Step on of it: Unless Ignorance come in the Place of your Knowledge: *Therefore work out your own Salvation, with Fear and Trembling; and let the Joy of the Lord be your Strength*: This Circle is not a Prison, but perfect Liberty: all who move not in this Way of serving God, and adoring him, are and shall be shut up in utter Darkness: But they that walk in this Circle, though they were shut up, and bound with Chains, and their Feet fast in Stocks; Yet are they in a large Place. the Mind and Soul, Enemies cannot shut up in Prison. My Children, I may lay out many Motives before you to perswade you to walk in the Way of Life: but you will find all these to be but small, when once ye get a broad Look of God himself. It is not Angels, or Saints, or created Glory, that is our Heaven; but God alone is our HEAVEN, our HAPPINESS, and our ALL. When at any Time, our Souls are raised up, to think on what's above where BLESSED HE IS: let us again come down with Delight, to do his Will here in the World; patiently waiting for his good Pleasure, without which nothing can befall us. *O! then Why should we be moved, to fear what can come. O! to be freed from Sin. I have now no more Time to Write.*

S E C T. XXI. December 3d. 1663.

UPon *Saturday* gone eight Days, my Children, another of your Aunts passed away from this Life; viz. my Sister *Craigie*; she expressed unto me her Assurance of Mercy and Salvation, through Jesus Christ; so that we have one Friend more in Heaven. I am not troubled at the Death of my Relations, that die in the Lord; yea, I esteem it more worth to me, to have them in Heaven, than in this World; for that is the Place, where we should *lay up Treasures for our selves, where Moth and Rust do not enter*: But when we think of our Treasures in Heaven, we should again think, *Whom have we there, but God; Or whom should we desire on Earth, beside him?* He that said this, found no Need of Saints in Heaven, to interceed for him *We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous*, who telleth Believers that the Father *himself loveth them*, from whom we may ask in his Name; and to assure us the more, he saith, *And I say unto you, That I will pray the Father for you*. They know not the Father's Love and Jealousie, who make Use of the Intercession of Angels, or Saints. My Children, seek God in earnest, and you shall know this, and all needful Truths. O how necessary is this Knowledge in these Days! when many are saying, lo here is Christ, and lo there: be the more diligent, and fear, because *strait is the Way which leadeth unto Life, and few there be that find it*. Yet such a Way it is, as that the Way faring Ones, tho' Fools, err not in it; for sure is the Covenant, which is made with Believers: they have the Word and OATH OF HIM, who is Truth itself. Rest not until you get this to lean unto. Oh! I cannot be so useful unto you, my dear Children, as to press you to this, and when my God doth help me so to do, either by this Mean, or by praying for you: Then have I a good Measure of Peace in mine own Mind. This maketh me think assuredly, that God doth allow me in this small Work, of leaving this under mine Hand unto you; for when I have done any Part of it, though never so weakly, yet I have joy and Rest in my Heart; which is the more heightened, when I win to hope, that all, or some of you, may come to profite by it. Another Encouragement to this Way is, when I think how

many

many precious Ones, upon their Death Beds, get few or no Words spoken to their Children, or to those about them for Pain and other Hinderances. So that it is good to work *While it is to Day, for the Night cometh, wherein none can work*; Yea, that Night may come, before we go out of this World, sometimes by Distempers upon our Bodys, or Spirits. Thus desire I to make ready, for what the Will, the good Will of my God shall be towards me; That when the Hour of Death cometh, I may have nothing to do, but die. I desire to lay very little Stress upon that last Moment. How ignorant was that Man, who desired to die the Death of the Righteous? My Children, live this holy Life, and you shall assuredly be led through the Valley, and Shadow of Death.

S E C T. XXII. December 23th. 1663.

Since what I last said, I met with another Encouragement to this Duty of Writing to you my Children, viz. An honest Friend shewed me a very Christian Letter written by her Husband (now deceased) to her, which she doth intend to keep for their Son, and only Child, who is not as yet three Months Old: Thinking that he may lay to Heart the Father's Words, whom he did never see in the Face; and how much more, my Children, should you mind what I say? Seeing it is expressly to you, that I am led (I trust by the Spirit of my God) to write, though in great Weakness upon my Part. But blessed be my God, who perfecteth Strength in Weakness; So that in a Manner it is all one, whether a Man be Weak or Strong in himself, seeing God can, and often doth make the weak Words of a weak Man, to be more Powerful, than those of the Wise and Prudent, though honest, as well as the other, For God who freely giveth, doth bestow the Blessing according to the Measure of Faith. That is our Lord's Commendation, *O Woman great is thy Faith*, and the Answer is, *Be it unto thee even as thou wilt*: But strong Peter, when he began to doubt, began to sink. The Promise is, *That whatsoever we ask believing we shall receive it*. And now O that my Faith were increased, Not only for my self and for the Work and People of God (which is now low, in Mens Account) but also for you my Children, that I were

were oftner Praying, and believing for you, *It is true, you must say for your Selves, I believe in God*: That is, every one of you *must be saved*, by your own Faith: Yet it is my Duty to be laying up a Stock of Prayers for you, and when I ask, it ought to be in Faith, *Not wavering*; and so much the more earnest should I be in your Behalf, as I know not to what Darkneſs of Ignorance I may leave you: For Oh! where will this Back-sliding Generation ſtop? who are now returning to theſe Abominations, which they formerly vomited up, as Witneſs, Their keeping (or rather prophaning) of this *Chriſtmaſs-day*, againſt which Obſervation of holy Days (as they call them) much is written and ſaid, by able and pious Men, and I have enough to ſatisfie my Self; but ſhall ſay nothing here but this, that any who will obſerve ſhall find, that they who are moſt earnest in obſerving theſe Things, for which they have no expreſs Command from God, are leaſt careful in keeping, what is commanded. My Children the Darker the Time be wherein you live, the more diligentlie ſeek in unto him, *who is the Light of the World, He is Life and the Light of Men*, If you come unto Him, *He will in no ways put you away*; but will love and receive you more tenderly, than I, or all the Fathers and Mothers in this World can do: The greateſt Pleaſure you can do Him, is to go unto Him, and to put all your Wants over upon Him, yea, even Sins alſo. Happy is he or ſhe, who lay their Sins upon Chriſt Jeſus, and take his Croſs upon them: They ſhall ſoon come up *from the Wilderneſſ leaning upon their Beloved*. He bare his Croſs alone, but ſo cannot we, For he knoweth our Weakneſs, and is ever with us, yea even when he ſeemeth to hide his Face. O! who can expreſs the Love of Chriſt? We may taſte of it, and the more we taſte, the more ſweetneſs ſhall we find: And know that Angels, and Men cannot expreſs the Riches of that Love, which ſhall be admired to all Eternity. Oh! what is the World doing? or rather, what are they whom God calleth out of the World doing? and what am I (who am writing this) doing? That I am not with all my might, ſeeking to have my Heart fill'd with this Love. Now God, who hath given to you, My Children, and to me, Hearts as ſo many Veffels, firſt emptie them of all Vanities, and then fill them with his Love.

When

S E C T. XXIII. *January 30th. 1664.*

WHEN ever I begin, I'm in pain what to say ; until I
 commit Mind and Pen unto God, the *Father of Spirits,*
who giveth Subtilty to the Simple, and to the young Man
Knowledge and Discretion, but as *Prain'd* in the Beginning, I
 am sometimes so enlarg'd before I end, that I know not how
 to End ; and how can it be otherways ? since it is my Work
 to speak of God, of whom the more I think, (and Thoughts
 are far vaster than Words) the more Matter find I of think-
 ing. My Children, soon may you come to the End of all
 created Things, if you sit down and think : your Thoughts
 may easily pass through the Habited, and unhabited parts of
 the Earth, and through the Seas, and up through the Firm-
 ment, and whole created Heavens : Also you may think on
 all that move within these, but at last the vast Mind must stop
 when it thinketh on Him, who is INFINITE. When in our
 Thoughts we come to the uttermost Circle of the Creation,
 can we then put out the Finger ? or can tell what is with-
 out ? O ! it becometh the Learnedest, and the Wisest of Men
 to profess their Ignorance, and (with *Moses*) make haste to
 worship. As also we may trace up Time to the Beginning,
 and we may think, that before that, there were neither An-
 gels nor Men, nor a created World ; but only that blessed
 BEING, which gave Being to all Things, who only is with-
 out Beginning ; in that Consideration, can our Thoughts
 reach unto Him ? They who have any Stamp of the INFI-
 NITE GOD, upon their Minds, will find no need of Im-
 ages to help them to worship HIM, who hath form'd our
 Minds, to have an otherways IDEA of Him ; then the Works
 of Men's Hands can represent : Our Minds can go farther
 Than either Tongue, or Hands, or any of the rest of the
 Members. The way to worship Him, is to worship in Spirit
 and Truth, as he hath commanded ? What Folly is it to go
 beyond his Command ? My Children, beware of any such
 Things, do what is commanded, and you shall find no need
 of more ; Spend much of your Time in Thinking on God
 The more you do so, the more shall you desire so to do,
 and that which at first will be a little Painful, shall at length
 become more pleasant unto you, than can be express'd : I as-
 sure

sure you this is true, blessed be my God, I have felt it many a Time : And yet so foolish am I, as often to wander from my Rest and Happiness. My Children, will you not be certain of these Truths, when you come to possess them? O! taste and know that God is good : There is no other way for me to advise you to be happy, and Oh! how fain would I have you happy! Let your vast Thoughts run through all, and you shall never find true Joy and Peace until you come to God, in and through Jesus Christ : Press through the many Hinderances, which are in your way : and delay not a Moments Time; for when once you have got near God, if then you can lament, it shall be for the Moments you have spent without Him. O! what shall I render to my God, for shewing me these Things in any Measure? I will even praise his Name forever and ever, and cite all of you so to do, and all that is in Heaven above, and in this Earth below, and the Seas, to sing forth his Praises for ever more, For that he is only truly good, I leave it to you my Children subscribed by your Father.

Sic subscrib: Wa: Pringle.

S E C T. XXIV. March 19th. 1664.

UPon Munday gone Eight Days at three in the Afternoon, at this Place, my truly worthy Sister of Ecclesiastick pass'd from her Earthly Dwelling, to her Place, which our blessed Lord went long since to prepare in Heaven. She took her Sickness upon the 15 Day of March 1663. (the Day my Son Walter was baptiz'd) and was very near a Year under Sickness and extream Pain : Which, to the Admiration of all about her, she endur'd most Patiently, often, in the Time of her most violent Pain, Praying her God and Father not to take off her the least Grain weight of what was his Will to lay on ; More Christian Expressions I never heard from any, than from her; in the whole Time of her Sickness, all which Time, except, some Exercise upon her Mind for one Day or two in the Beginning, she had never the least Doubt of her Interest in God ; But expressed her full Assurance of His Mercy and Love to her, through Jesus Christ. These several Years past, She hath liv'd a Stranger in this Earth, separated from this World, and the Things in it She had a great Love to her Son Alexander, the only Reason, I

knew

knew, was the Assurance, which she had of his dying in the Lord. In her Sicknes she took her Son *Jahn*, his Engadgement, to seek to become the Lord's : Telling him, that unless, he were *HIS*, he should be none of *HER's*. I knew none, who had more true Love to the People of God, than she had ; and now Faith, and Hope are ceas'd, but that remaineth perfected. O ! that excellent Grace of *LOVE* to God, where it is, it must descend to those whom he begetteth : Verily this is all we have to seek, for all other Graces follow it, as so many Wheels moving swiftly and pleasantly. *They that love him will keep his Commandements* : and they will not find them *Greivous*, but as their Meat and their Drink : Hath not this *LOVE* made many of his Sing in the Fires, and in the greatest Torments, which cruel Enemies could invent ? Oh ! it is not in the Power of Devils or Men, to make that Soul, (which hath this precious Treasure) unhappie ; but for one Moment of Time. We may, by suffering it to ly as dead under Ashes, be Strangers to our own Happiness : But when God is pleased to shed it abroad in the Heart, O ! how pleasant is that Flame ? there is wearying in all Things else, but the Soul that findeth it self filled with, and within the Love of God, will assuredly desire to abide there forever & ever, knowing that therein alone is their Happiness. My Dear Children, what Way shall I prove to you the Truth of this ? But I intreat you to enquire of these, who in themselves have felt it : And if any of you be so blinded, as to think, That they speak from Interest, Then go to dying Men and Women, when they are sleeping in to Eternitie, and enquire of them, if they think any happie, but these, who are within the Loving-kindness of God. Every one that hath liv'd, at a Distance with God, doth change their Thoughts when they see Death near them. But Oh ! my Children, put not off till that Time come upon you least you suffer for your Folly for ever and ever. But if these two Witnesses prove not this excellent Truth to you, can there be a surer Way, than for you to try it your Selves, As when a private Man hath News brought him, that a People hath chosen him to be their King ; Is he not certain of the Truth thereof, when he goeth, and sitteth down upon his Throne by the Hearty Consent of all the People ? More certain shall you be, when in your Selves you prove this Truth.

S E C T. XXV. October 3d. 1664.

I Was summon'd to compear before the high Commission Court, the 19th Day of July last; for declaring, That I could not own Mr. *James Straton* for my Minister, nor could join in Prayers read by the Reader, nor in singing the Conclusion, which is now brought IN: My Reasons I need not here insert. I made my Compearance before that Court upon the 21st. of July last, and got their Sentence, as I have it under the Clerk's Hand, of the same Date. I went into the Bishop of *Edinburgh*, upon the 8th of September last, but could not take the Oath, as he tender'd it, *viz.* without any Explanation, but the Words as they stand: This much he expressed to me, That Supremacy and Allegiance should always go together. And when I alleadg'd the Parliament their Explanation of that Oath, he answered, That there was no such Thing in Record; and, that the Bishops were not then sitting in Parliament. Also at the high Commission, it was said to me, by the Primate, who did preside, That it was true, that Christ is Head of the Church, but it could not be expected, that He should exercise that Office here in the World; and to whom did it so properly belong to do it, as to the King. This Oath is to be found in 1st. and 11th. Acts of the first Parliament of *KING CHARLES* the 2^d. Here I am interrupted.

S E C T. XXVI. October 4th. 1664.

A Fter I got my Summons, and before Compearance (having left the Company I was with, upon the Winilstraw Law) for a Quarter of an Hour, I was earnest with God in Prayer, That he would so guide me, a Worm in the Business, as that his Name might be glorified, his People edified, and mine own Soul better'd. After Prayer I resolv'd to take the Verse in my Bible, which by Providence cast first up to me, which is a Way. I rarely use to take, and blessed be my God, who so favoured me, as to send me that Word, 1 Joh. 5. 15. And if we know, That he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the Petitions, that we desired of Him; by this I was much strengthened to put my Trust in

Him, who never leaveth His in the Time of Need, and who
 I know will encrease my Strength, if Troubles shall be in-
 creased; To that it is all one whither the Waters be ebb or
 deep, seeing the Head is ever born up. O! everlasting Arm
 are underneath all those that suffer for him, He never sendeth
 any a way-fareing upon their own Charges, of which Number
 I am now bold, to reckon my self, though most unworthy
 I shall not here insert the Reasons against that Oath, since the
 most Part of the Lord's People, in this Land, are so clear
 against it: Yea, many have already grounded their Suffering
 upon the refusing of it, who yet are most free to give Allee-
 geance to the King; but the Oath, as it stands, I know shall
 appear every Day more and more unjust, and against the
 Prerogatives of our Lord and King; whose Skirt of his Robe
 I bless God, I have not put forth my Hand to cut off, nor
 when any who, please may do it: But it will not al-
 ways be so, for he will come forth conquering, and to con-
 quer. O! how shall his Enemies be then ashamed, when
 their Hands shall be found (with Reverence may I say it)
 Pieces of Christ's Glory? O! That Patience may have its
 perfect Work in all the Saints. Now for my self, altho'
 am a Sufferer, and may be a Loser for the Time, for the
 last high Commission Day, I was order'd, to be
 summon'd, upon 15 Days to pay the Fine, yet I know all the
 Arithmaticians in the World shall not be able to number my
 Gains: Their Skill reacheth but the finite Things; the
 Wisdom of this World, judgeth that in this, I am not so care-
 ful of you, my Children as I should; God is my Witness
 how dearly I love you, and how careful I have been to
 provide for you, even the Things of this World, far
 less, foolishly to put away what my Father left unto me
 which is now by God's Blessing better'd: I need not here
 insert how much, since I judge it best to quite it, when my
 Lord calleth for it, untold; In these Cases, the left Hand
 should not know, what the right doth. I can't reckon how
 oft I have held up my Hand before God; and promised
 to be always ready to forelake all for him, some what of the
 you may find Pages 15. and 20. When you know what
 worthy one He is, which cannot be known: Then shall
 you find this to be true Wisdom, and that Losing of the Life
 for Him, is gaining of it. My Children, suspend your
 Thought

Thoughts of me in this Business, until you be enlightened from above, or else till Death come; then I know, I shall be approved of you.

Man's Approbation is to me a very small Business, only I fain would have you consenting to every Parcel of Truth; the least of which, is worth a thousand Worlds which pass away; but Truth remaineth for ever: Blessed are they who sell their all, to buy it. Many Times it hath been my Prayer, That when ever I should suffer, for now I have been long without a Cross, it might be for Righteousness Sake; blessed be my God, who hath heard me; for though as yet I can scarce give my Confinement, or what is yet upon me, the Name of Suffering: Yet I know that, in his Account, it is a Filling up of what is behind, of the Afflictions of Christ in my Flesh. O! I rejoice that I have Flesh to do this: And now O! blessed God, who makest thy Strength perfect in Weakness, and who hitherto hast helped me, carry me through even to the End, and as the Furnace groweth hotter, strengthen me to endure it; and never leave me, nor forsake me in it, nor yet in Prosperity. I look to be left of my dearest Friends, yea even it may be, of thy People, and of the Wife in my Bosom: In all this I heartily submit unto thee, holy Father, but blessed be thou who callest me, not to submit to be left of thee: I look not always to have the Sense and Feeling of thy Presence with me, come and go as pleaseth thee: Only cause me to believe, when I see not, and when my Finger is not in the Print of the Nails, nor my Hand in thy blessed Side. By my Unbelief, I cannot glorifie thee, but by Faith I can. O! I bless, and praise thy infinite Wisdom, and Goodness, for thus ordering it.

S E C T. XXVII. December 5th. 1664.

U Pon Thursday, the 24th. of November last, I was taken from this Place, by three of the Life-guard, the fourth had fallen sick at Whiteburn, and a Messenger of Arms, that Night to Gingle-Kirk, and upon the Morrow, into the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, where I thought to have stay'd some Time, and to have written to you, my Children, while there a Prisoner of JESUS CHRIST: But I had no Opportunity of doing this, the little Time I was there, being so throng'd

throng'd with Vifites. Upon the *Tuesday* thereafter, this fecond High Commiffion (without any Application from me to them, or Appearance before them) paft Sentence upon me to find Bond to enter to the Magiftrates of *Elgin* in *Murray* upon, or before the firft of *January* next, and to abide with in the Burgh, and bounds of the faid Town, during the King's Pleasure ; and if the Fine impos'd by the firft high Commiffion be not payed at *Candlemafs* next ; I am then to enter within the *Talbooth* of the faid Burgh. I know not if this new Commiffion could (without new Citation) meddle with the Affairs of the laft, whose Commiffion is worn out. I had more Friends this Time than before ; but the *Bifhops* carry all in that Court, as they please. Yet my Heavenly Father giveth me the Cup, therefore desire I moft chearfully to drink it. Blessed for ever more be my Lord *Jesus*, who drank an other Sort of a Cup for me : My greateft Desire in this World is, that he may be glorified by my Bonds and Sufferings, and that his People may be Strengthened, and that some here, and in the Place I go to, who are yet far off may be brought near to God : Blessed be He, who can make any Mean Effectual. I am confident through the goodnefs of my God, that not only my self, but others alfo, fhall be much better'd by my Sufferings : Thus fhall the Design of Enemies be frustrate. O ! he is Wife, who ruleth Heaven and Earth, and maketh all Things to work for his own Glory and the good of his People, Praise, praise be to Him, who hath twifted thefe two together, fo as Devils and Men cannot feperate them, Enemies (in a manner) would come to better Speed, if they fat Idle than by working. I fhall only mention a Remarkable Passage, which God in his Providence trufted me with, during my Confinement here at Home, upon *Saturday* the 22 of *October* laft, I was in the Fields from 3 in the Afternoon, till 6, but got little, until coming home in the quiet of the Evening. Thinking what might become of my Wife and Children, I was led to this Comparifon of a King fending one of his Servants, into a hazardous Piece of Service, and if the King fhould fay to that Servant, be not troubled for your Wife and Children, for I will take thefe into my Care ; Then that Servant needed not be anxious for them ; and far lefs fhould I, the Servant of the KING of *KINGS*, the God of Truth who can, and will perform

his Word. Upon this I was made to give up my Wife and Children unto God, with full Assurance that he would care for them. It had been my Duty never to have doubted of this, though no other Confirmation had been given me: but blessed be He, who knowing my very great Weakness, sent his Servant Mr. Edward Jameson upon the Tuesday thereafter, who in his Exhortation to the Family; had the very same Comparison to the full: Although I had not then made it known to any in this World. And now what need I fear the loss of my two Fynes, or of all I have in this World, since the great and Mighty One hath taken you off my Hands! Oh that you my Children, when you come to Age, may give away your Selves to HIM; You are lost for ever if you do it not. When you come to any Knowledge, Use all Diligence to make your Calling and Election sure. It is great Matter of Joy to me, that, in Letters from my Daughter, I have under her Hand Breathings after God: Who will not quench her smoking Flax, nor break her bruised Reed. God give her Grace to hold on her Way; and so wax stronger and stronger. O! to have you all in the Way that leadeth to Glory and rest. PRAISE, PRAISE BE TO HIM, who can bring you unto it; and lead you in it.

S E C T. XXVIII. January 7th 1665.

U Pon the 22d. Day of the last Month, I went from this with a Purpose to go to Elgin; But before I reach'd Edinburgh, My Brother Torewoodlie gave in a Petition, in my Name to the Lords of Council, who granted me to the last of this Month, recommending to the high Commission to grant me a longer Time. Although I seem to be at Mens Disposal, yet blessed be He, in whose Hands I am, To whom this Morning I have, renew'd my Vow, upon the Reading of the 12th Verse of the 5th. of the Revelation, with this Thought, that I need never fear to follow, through the thickest Tentations, Troubles, and Enemies; such a General, Who's, is Power and Riches, and Wisdom, and Strength, and Honour, and Glory and Blessing. Soldiers will courageously go on, and scorn Dangers, when they have a Wife of Valiant Captain before them. But knowing mine own Infirmities, and Weakness, my Engagement is only in these Terms,

Terms, and blessed be He, who knoweth, any Frame, and alloweth it so, that He without Whom *I* can do nothing, giving me Light, Strength, and Grace, then shall *I* walk in the way of his Obedience, and never flee from his Banner. My Ordinary this Morning was, from the 9 Verse of this 5th. Chapter to the End, I think it is a strange way of reckoning our blessed, **LORD WORTHY**, who was so from all Eternity, for that He was slain, and hath redeemed us. O! blessed be Thou, O God and Father, who out of the Wonderful Riches of thy Infinite free Love, accountest the Redemption of Sinners such a great Work. Now I desire to wear that Crown, which thou wilt give unto Me, (the least of thine, and Chief of Sinners) for that End, that *I* may throw it down at thy Foot-stool, and ascribe unto thee, who *sittest upon the Throne. and unto the LAMB, BLESSING, HONOUR, GLORY, and POWER, FOR EVER AND EVER, AMEN.*

S E C T. XXIX. *Elgin Tolbooth, March, 22. 1665.*

UPON the 10th. Day of *January*, *I* attended upon the sitting of the High Commission, who did not then sit, but adjourn'd unto the 24th. of *January*; at which Time *I* came again to *Edinburgh*, with an Intention to come on my Journey, but the high Commission gave a Continuation of my Entry to this place, to the 10th. of this Month. These Delays were obtained upon the account of my Wife's being big with Child, who, through the Goodness of God, was safely delivered *January* 30, of a Daughter, to whom we gave the Name of *Anne*, before Baptism, which *I* delayed, in regard *I* could not get it done, in such a cleanly way, as was desir'd; My Child so soon as thou art come into this World, thou art a Sufferer, not as an Evil Doer, blessed be God: O that he may give thee inward Grace, even though the outward Seal should not be obtain'd; Praise be to Him, who doth not keep out, nor cast out when Men do: He is against the Shepherds, who feed not the Flock, He himself will seek out his Flock, and save them. *Ezek: 34.* My God hasten to do so, for thy Glory's Sake. *February, 23* Our ordinary reading in the Family, in the Morning, was, *Psal. 55.* *I* thought to have done no more in the Family

ly my self, for I expected Mr. *Edward Jameson*; who was detained until the Time of our Exercise was past; So it did ly upon me (some Christian Friends being with us) to sing *Psal: 7* from the 9 Verse to the End, and to read the 11. Chapter of *Ezek*: This I mention, that I may hold on our Ordinarie, if ever the Lord shall bring me back to them again; as also that it may appear, how well our Ordinarie was trysted with our present Condition, For I believe, that if the ablest of Men had known our State, and set themselves to write suitablie to it: They could not have sent us Words so pertinent, as are especially the 16. 17. &c. Vers: of *Ezek*: 11 *Chap*: Lord open the Eyes of those, who would equal what they now write unto the Scriptures of Truth, upon which my Soul desireth to feed, as upon green Pastures, finding thy self in them, for the Latter profiteth not. Upon the 24 of *February*, I came from *Greenknow*, and left my Aged Mother, my dear Wife and Children, Friends and Family, and all for his Sake; For whom it is nothing to be kill'd all the Day long, when he enlightneth, and Strengthneth the poor Soul. For *HIS SAKE*, came often in my Mind, when the Stormy Weather was sharp on my Face: For I had sore Weather betwixt *Aberdeen* and this, such as useth not to be in *March*. But Oh! what is all this, when compared with what is recorded of the Saints in former Times? I must cut short, for in this Prison, I have not a place alone, except an upper Room, which I may retire to, but cannot write. I enter'd in here, upon the 10th, Day of this Month, my Prayer is, that I may not go out, until my God carry me out without Sin. O that He may keep me Faithful unto Death: And, as my Ordinarie is this Morning, *Gen: 17.* to the 9 Verse, *May be my God, and the God of my Seed after me*, Even so be it.

S E C T. XXX. *Elgin, July 5th. 1665.*

Blessed be my God, whom I desire to serve with my outward and inner Man, who in a cleanly Way, brought me out of the Tolbooth, sooner than I expected; and that in the very Nick of a little Piece of Extremitie, for upon the 6th. of *Aprile*, a Prisoner was put in beside me, whom the Magistrates resolved to keep very strictlie, therefore we were clo-

sed

sed within the Room, where we did lie, all that Night; although I knew not how long I might be in that Condition; Yet I bless God, I had never more Peace in my Mind; For even in the Night Time, when I could not sleep, because of noisome Smell, I was refreshed in my Spirit, with Remembrance, That it was for HIS NAME'S SAKE. Upon the Morrow the Town Council met, and without any Desire from me, past an Act, That I should be removed to a Chamber of the House, out of which I had my Diet; and accordingly the Provost and Bailies, came and brought me alongit. Thus did my Lord give me Favour in the Eyes of those, among whom I am cast. In the Tolbooth, I could not worship except in the Spirit only, which I know is most acceptable to God, when further Libertie is denied; But in my new Prison I might be alone, when I pleased; my only Disadvantage was, That it was not so well air'd, as the former; which, I think, occasioned very sore Eyes to me, so that I was wholly disabled from Reading and Writing, and had sometimes Thoughts, that I might come wholly to lose my bodilie Sight, which had been but little to lose in his Service, who is my Lord and Master, the KING of KINGS. I made it my Prayer, with Submission to his holy Will, That he would continue to me that rich temporal Mercy of Sight: After which Time (blessed be God the Hearer of Prayers) mine Eyes became daily better, only, yet they grow worse when I read or write much, which is the Cause, why I have here written so little to you my Children: Yet nothing I have said, or can say, will prevail with you, to lay hold on eternal Life, without God's Blessing: The Consideration whereof may stir me up to pray more for you, though I should write less: But I desire both may go together. Upon the 10th. of May I was liberate from close Prison, by an Order of the Lords of Secret Council, which was brought to me by my Nephew *Walter*, giving me the Bounds of a Mile about this Town, during their Pleasure. This was obtained by *Stitchill*, and the Laird of *Haining*, far beyond their own and others Expectation. By the Will of God I have got this half Freedom; and when ever it shall be his good Will to take it from me again, I desire to be fully content. O! MOST HIGH, I am at thy Disposal, to do with me, and make of me, whatsoever thou wilt, let me never

repine

repine. My dear Children, these are Words but for my self; but so soon as you shall receive the SPIRIT of TRUTH, then shall you from Time, to Time, be taught right Words. O! That you may receive the LORD JESUS, then shall you with Him freely get all Things. The INFINITE God is more than all Things and he is the Portion of his People. O! how is the World blinded, in esteeming them an oppressed, fighting, poor and needy People? whereas their worst Things, are much better than the World's best: And even that which maketh the ignorant count them miserable, is their greatest Happiness within Time, viz. The Cross of JESUS CHRIST. For what is more desirable, and profitable, than to be made conformable unto him, in his Sufferings & Death? O that I may become more and more familiar to his sweet sweet Cross. Blessed be He who hath allur'd me in, under it, even when I was shunning it. Now I may acknowledge, That it is light, easy, and pleasant, although my Separation from my dear Wife, and you my Children, is as cutting of the Head, from the Body; Yet such Killing is delightful to me for HIS SAKE, who giveth me now, and then, many a sweet Moment. This may well serve, while Eternitie come, and I enter IN where Moments cannot be counted. My dear Children, with all your Might and Speed, hasten to serve my blessed LORD: In all the World, you shall not find so good a Master, nor yet such rich REWARDS, as He giveth to HIS, whom he is pleased to call Friends, and not servants: Yea, hereafter they shall be somewhat more than SONS. 1 Joh. 3. 2.

S E C T. XXXI. July 20th. 1665.

W HEN I think upon that commanded Duty, Deut. 6. 7. and else where through the Word, and that now I am denied the Libertie of Conversing with you, my Children: I am the more earnest to exhort you by writing, to choose God for your PORTION. None but he alone can help you, in the Time of your greatest Need; neither can any other lead you safely through this dangerous Wilderness of a World. The many Thousands of Israel would have perish'd in the Desert, if they had not had his Cloud before them in the Day Time, and Pillar of Fire in the Night. If the joint Might

and Wisdom of all these could not save them, how much less can any single Person be safe? Especially in thir latter Days, wherein the Devil is raging, knowing that his Time is but short. *Verily now it is, that the Righteous scarcely are saved.* In Part I was Witness to the Truth of this, upon the 29th. of June last, in the Death of an eminent Professor, which I will not particularly mention. O! my dear Children give diligence to make your Calling and Election sure. If you ask me what you should do, that *you may inherit eternal Life*, I desire you to go to the Lord Jesus Christ: But Oh! come not from him sorrowful, when he telleth you to quite your vain sinful Pleasures, and momentary Delights: If you be His you must crucifie these. O! forsake all for Him, and then go on with Him, in your Company, rejoicing, as the *Ethiopian, Acts 8. 39.* I your Father, and to use the Apostle's Words, *Prisoner of the Lord*, beseech you to lay hold on what is freely offered, to you in the Gospel; Nothing less than **JESUS CHRIST**, and with Him all Things. This would be my Desire to you, if these were my last Words, as I know not but they may. Truly I find most Peace in my Mind, when I am fully content, if so the Will of God be, to lay down my Body in the Grave here, though separate from all my Relations. *Whom had Moses with him when his Life went from his Body?* Yet I had never more Freedom, than now to desire with Submission, a While's lengthening of my Days: For I know, that shall be for my Good, the longer I bear the Cross of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For me now to seek to enter into my Rest when the Lord Jesus is in the Camp, with his little Troop against his many Enemies, is as if a Souldier should seek a Place to go to his own peaceable Habitation, and leave his King and General in the Fields, in the Heat of War. when at Night I ly down in my solitary Bed, it is refreshing to me to think, I am in MY LORD's LEAGURE: But I dare not boast, for I have not yet put off mine Armour; and though I should endure, as a good Souldier, even to the End, Yet I should have no Cause of Glorifying, except in the Lord by whose Strength only, I shall be able to stand, and overcome to the End. If I were not assured of his Presence with me, I would even give over, and say, O let me not go one Step hence, unless thou go with me, my Weakness is such

and the Difficulties in the Way so many, That Angels are not sufficient Guides for me: The holy Spirit of Truth, which leadeth unto all Truth, is the Guide I desire to walk with, & follow. O that You my Children may be led by this blessed Spirit; then shall we arrive at one and the same glorious Habitation.

S E C T. XXXII. July 31st. 1665.

MY Children, it would be one of the greatest Pleasures Temporary, for me to enjoy your Company, to live with you and your Mother, though it were in the meanest Condition, would certainly be my Choice, if I had not given away my Will unto God, desirous never to make any Choice for my self, knowing that is most unsafe so to do; For the wisest of Men, thinking to establish themselves, have made choice of that which hath proven their Ruin: And on the contrarie, the poor and simple, who have been careful for nothing, but have made their Necessities known unto God by Prayer, with Thanksgiving. O! how well those have been helped, against all their Enemies, & securely led through all the Difficulties of a World? They have the Word of a King, even of the God of Truth who cannot lie, engaging his *INFINITE WISDOM, POWER, and Goodness to be with them, and for them, Blessed is the People, and the Person, whose God is the Lord.* O! it is better to be even in the hottest Furnace of Affliction, when He is present than to be sitting upon the most Flourishing Throne in this Earth, when he is absent. Blessed be my God, who often raiseth me up to that true Knowledge of Things, as that I would not change my Cross with a Crown, No not the present Sweetness of the Cross, with the present Delights of a Crown, which hath not so much as a true Being; For none of the Senses are fullie satisfied by it, and though they were, yet were it but for a Moment, but this Cross is a Seed, which bringeth forth an exceeding and Eternal Weight of Glory. My dear Children, sow not to the Flesh, but to the Spirit, That of the Spirit you may reap Life everlasting. Be not so madly foolish, as to think you may pass away your Youthhood, in following the vain Lusts and Pleasures of the Flesh, and thereafter turn unto God, It is true he hath been pleased

to accept of some after the Wanderings of their Youth, and I may acknowledge my self to be one of these, to the Praise of his rich Free Grace, but for any because of this, to be encouraged to go on in their Wicked Ways, is, as if one would commit these Crimes which deserve Death, and so be brought to the Place of Execution, not fearing because, some being cast over, have broken the Cord, and then have gotten the King's Mercie; but no Comparison can hold forth the Loss and hazard of these, who lose their Immortal Souls: This may be better thought on, than can be express'd. My Children the Consideration of your own Hazard, may be a mean to make you flee into a Saviour. But O! when you come to know Him; Who is the Chief of all the Thousands in Heaven and Earth: Then you would not quite his Service; even though there were not a *Reward for the Righteous*. To stand as a Servant before him in this lower world; and to go through the hardest Pieces of Service for Him, is in it's self a very rich Reward. This Testimonie of Him, and of his Ways, I desire to leave in Record to You my Children. With this Confession that I cannot express, the thousand part of that Worth, which is in Him, *who is altogether Lovely*. O! how gladlie would I have you all happie in Him. I know assuredlie, that you can be so, no where else: This your Selves may know, if you will be at leasure to search it out. O! *be still and know that He is God*; and the onlie Fountain of all Good: go unto HIM, and abide with HIM. I assure you, He will never put you away, You know not what Evils, may be in your Time, O! make sure your Interest in HIM: Then shall you safely ride out the greatest Storm, that can arise, then your Anchor is *within the Vail*. This is the only Thing, I press you with, since nothing beside this is necessarie. Now I will go pray for you, and for the work and People of my God: For which, I desire to spend this Day; O! that according to my Ordinarie, this Morning Deut: 26th. 17. 18. 19. You my Children, *May avouch the Lord to be your God; and that he may avouch you to be of the Number, of his peculiar People.*

S E C T. XXXIII. *August 31st. 1665.*

FOR the Space of some Weeks past, I have been intertain'd
 with the Expectation of Liberty to go Home; which
 (though it would be Matter of very much Joy to me) yet
 it hath been my constant Desire, that it might not succeed,
 unless it were the good Will of my God; for O! how unsafe
 it is for me, to have, or to follow, a Will of mine own? I
 have ground to believe, that He hath heard me in this: And
 that it is for my best, altho' a little grievous to my Carnal
 Mind, the Continuation of my Bonds, separation from Wife,
 Children, and Others, not knowing for how long. But blest
 be He, who hath my Time in his Hand. O! that I may
 never limit Him, and may never give over trusting IN HIM:
 Then shall not my Expectation fail for ever. Six Days
 together I was assured by several, that my Liberty was granted:
 But upon Saturday last, I got Letters from my Friends,
 shewing the contrair, to their great Disappointment. In the
 Time wherein I had Thoughts of going Home, some of
 these Days, my Ordinarie was Judges 7th. And my Prayer
 was that my going might not be as the going of those men-
 tioned, in the 3^d. Vers: or in the End of the 7th. Vers: how
 much ashamed would these be, when Gideon and the 300
 returned with great Victory? Certainlie they had but little
 pleasure in their Homes. O! how much greater shall my
 Victorie and Prize be, if I be kept Faithful, and endure to
 the End, even unto Death? then shall it not repent me, that
 I have been here a Stranger, with many a sad and heavy
 Heart, when I see others, in the Evenings return from their
 Labours, to their own Homes; and I to my Solitary Cham-
 ber, and when I hear the Children of others weep; and think
 that mine may not onlie be weeping, but groaning in Sick-
 ness; yea, it may be breathing out their last, and I not see-
 ing them: As also, when I think that my Aged Mother
 may be passing hence, and, I her only Child now remaining,
 not with her to perform my last Dutie to her, it hath been
 my Prayer to God, with Submission to his holie Will, That
 he may be pleased to allow me this Privilege. How ever
 He dispose, I have good Ground to believe, that he will as-
 suredly make all work for my good; Although I should

not any more see my dear Wife, and Children, in this Life. Yet I am persuaded that He whom I serve, can easilie make up that great Loss to me: Yea, I know that the Enjoyment of them, with all other Earthlie Blessings, might be far worse to me, than the Loss of them is. How soon may all these *Gourds wither*, and Anger come in the place of exceeding Gladness. as it was with *Jonah*? There may be some pleasure, for the Time, in building upon Sand; but Grief, and Sorrow cometh, when the Winds and Storms arise, and Building falleth: O! that in this Stormie Hour of Tryal, it may appear, that I have not been building upon Sand, but upon the ROCK of AGES. When I look to my Self, and consider the Failings of others, which alas with much Sorrow I hear of, then have I great ground to fear; But when I lift up mine Eyes to my God, and think on his excellent Loving kindness, and wonderful Goodness, who hitherto hath helped me; then have I no cause to doubt for the Time to come. Blessed be He, who can easilie subdue all the Enemies which are in my Way to Heaven. When the Waters are like to go over mine Head, then will HE give me Wings, with which I may mount up. I have nothing to Fear, but Sin and Unbelief, the greatest of Sins. O! That henceforth I may *live that Life, which is by Faith in the Son of God*. My dear Children press with all your Might, to live this Life of Faith; that your End may be Eternal Glorie. O! how chearfullie, would I endure this little Separation from you, if I had Assurance to have you all with me for ever in Heaven? Oh! I cannot think, without great Grief, of wanting one of you there: Many Prayers are put up for you, and I hope I have ground to believe they are heard, through the Riches of God's Free Grace. O set to, and work out your own Salvation, in the Strength of the Lord, I desire to spend the rest of this Day in Prayer, as many others, I hope are doing.

S E C T. XXXIV. September 16th. 1665.

THE Expectation of Gain maketh the labouring Man rise timely in the Morning, that he may go about his toilsome Work: This Thought made me rise out off my Bed this moraing, desiring to employ my little Pains in these Things which perish not. And O! what Profite, and Advantage

advantage were it, if by any Thing I insert here, I could do
 any good to the immortal Souls of you, my dear Children ?
 You are often in my Thoughts, and the Matter of my Pray-
 ers ; for the more I am separate from you here, the more
 pressing and fervent my Desires are, to have you with me for-
 ever, *IN MY FATHER'S KINGDOM*, into which, when
 once I am entered, I cannot come back to inform you of
 these everlasting joys and Pleasures ; God alloweth of no such
 Mean, Therefore (while yet in this World) desire I to leave
 this as my *LAST WILL* to you : O flee from the Wrath
 and Condemnation, of the great and and DREADFUL GOD,
 with more Speed and Diligence, than if thousands of most
 cruel Enemies were pursuing you with drawn Swords at your
 Heels. There is a Possibility of escaping from Men, and their
 Strokes are but of short Endurance ; but you may see in the
 39. Psalm, That there is no Hiding, or Escaping from the
 Almighty, neither is their any Deliverie, for those who are
 once shut down into that bottomless Pit of utter Darkness :
 but these Wretches must there endure unspeakable Torment
 in everlasting Flames, burning without the least Comfort of
 Light. O ! who can dwell with devouring Fire, in that
 Place, where all Sorrows, Sickness, Filthiness, and Pains
 will be confined ? Among all these Thousands of Devils, and
 damned Souls, there will not be the least Grain Weight of
 Pity one toward another. Serious Thoughts of HELL, is
 certainly a strong Motive to move a Soul to come into JE-
 SUS CHRIST : But I verilie believe, That a View of God's
 excellent, wonderful, and free Loving-kindness, is a far more
 prevailing Motive. O ! how strong are these Cords of
 LOVE ? None but they that feel them know, and what they
 know is only this, that they who are once tyed in them,
 and drawn with them, can never break, or come out of them.
 O ! sweet and pleasant Chains. It is only true Libertie
 to be in them, it is true Health to be sick of Love to this
 LOVELY ONE. What a delightful Thing is it, to sit, or
 stand under his Banner of Love ? *IT IS OUR HEAVEN*
 here, and it is the Heaven of Angels, and Saints above ; who
 have no other, will never Desire any other Food, but this
 HIS LOVE ; which had no Beginning, and never will have
 any End. The Soul which once getteth a true Taste of it
 will ever desire more of it. We cannot send up so useful a

Petition, as to pray that this Love may be shed abroad in our Hearts, and it were our Wisdom, often every Hour, to repeat this Desire in our Thoughts, when we may not conveniently utter it with our Lips. This JEWEL is (so to speak) the first Mover of all other Graces; and it will shine in Heaven, when they shall cease. This maketh the sojourning Saints endure and cheerfully suffer all Things, finding the sharpest Afflictions, and heaviest Crosses easie, and light. My Children, God who only knoweth the Heart, knoweth how earnest I am, to have you live this excellent Life of Faith, in Jesus Christ, which worketh by Love. It is as a Fire in my Bosom, the Desire I have, to have you fully persuaded of these Truths, which I both know and feel. There is none in the World, whose Happiness, I desire more, than yours who are to me dear, as mine own Soul. I shall not give over to pray for you, so long as I am in this Life.

S E C T. XXXV. September 28th. 1665.

VOLUMS cannot contain, what may be said of the LOVE OF GOD, though the whole World were full of Rims of clean Paper, and all that live in it, had every one the Pens of ready Writers; Yet all could not fully express his excellencies, WHO IS LOVE, 1 Joh. 4. 8, *All are saying, who will show us any Good?* But alas few seek it where alone it is to be had, even in HIM, TO LOVE HIM, with all the Soul, Heart and Mind. O! what Joy and Peace it bringeth? They who knew no better did place their Happiness, in having a Friend, whom they might trust and love as themselves, to whom they might impart all their Joys, and Griefs, knowing well that by a true Sympathy, which is a pleasant Harmony, they would take and bear their Friend, his Pressures, as their own. Such have met as Vessels full, ready to burst, for want of a Vent, but when they have Unbosom'd themselves to others, have felt a present Ease, or as one Travelling under a heavy Burden, meeting with another, who taketh the half from him, He then doth walk easily under the Remainder, many Rules are given, how to make choice of such a Friend, all which may readily fail: For even in former Times, and

far more may this be now, when Love & Truth are so exceedingly decayed; that an Oath is not so much as half a Promise was before, *David* was deceived by his Familiar Friend, in whom he trusted, and yet He had Wisdom to choose. My Children, *I will shew you a more Excellent Way, than to place your Confidence in Man, even in GOD the ROCK of AGES.* O! Trust in Him evermore, and assuredly He will never fail you. This Advice I desire to give you, that when any of you is surpriz'd with Joy, Sorrow, Anger, or any of these Passions of the Mind; you may then abstain from speaking to any Creature, until first in secret, you pour out your Heart to God, and vent your Mind unto Him. How many in these passionate Fitts, have spoken, and done that of which they have repented all their Time? We have need to watch over our Selves, even while in our best Wits: But how much more, when we are out of our selves, being transported with any of these Passions? As there is great Hazard at these Times to vent to Creatures; so on the contrair, there is safety, and it is the fittest Time, for one to go in secret to God: For then is the Soul most awaken'd, and the Heart easiliest poured out, lying as Wax melted and soft. before his Seal; And O! how safe is it, not to come away, until he hath set upon the Soul, his Firm Stamp, and Impression? This bringeth Peace to the Mind, maketh the Countenance to shine, and the Christian's whole Walk comely. I may, to his Praise declare that at such Times, as I get near Access to God, I find my Voice & Words more pleasant. & Looks more Beautiful, than at other Times: & since this is in the Outward, O it is much more in the Inward of the Mind and Soul, which hath Communion with God. As also there is true safetie in going to Him, at these Times, for we are but weak and Foolish, and cannot bear these Pressures, and know not how to walk under them: But when the Almighty his everlasting Arms are underneath us, we need not care how heavy our Burdens be, and INFINITE WISDOM, giveth that Wisdom, and Spirit to his own, which the Men of this World are not able to resist, as *Acts, 6th. 10th.* O that all his People were more leaning to his Wisdom and Strength, and were wholly leaving off to walk in the Lights of the Sparks of their own Kindling. Then should He be unto them a Cloud by Day, and a Pillar of Fire to guide them in the Night, a strong Tower.

and hiding Place in the Evil Day, yea a Strong Tower and Rock higher than Enemies can reach unto. The Righteous flee unto Him, and are safe, for none can pluck them out of his Hand. O my Children, let this God be your Refuge. The last Letter, I had from your dear Mother, presseth me to pray for you, that God may shew Mercy to you: I shall continue so to do, while in this Life, God strengthening Me.

S E C T. XXXVI. October 10th. 1665.

WHen in the last Days Writing, I mention the pleasant-
 neis of Countenance, and Words of these who have
 near Access to God; I do not mean any Alteration of the
 Natural Voice, which God hath given us to pray unto, and
 glorifie Him with, as well as to make Use of in our Con-
 versation with Men. Neither do I think, that there should be
 any Affectation in Countenance, or Gestures, which is un-
 comelie in the sight of Men, and unpleasant to God, who
 doth look to the Inward Frame, and Temper of the Heart,
 and is only well satisfied with what cometh from that Foun-
 tain, flowing from thence out, into the Natural Conduits,
 wherewith God hath endued us, to praise H I M, and con-
 verse with our Neighbours to Edification. This way our
 Nature is sanctified, but not taken away: What is sinful,
 we should desire to be whollie remov'd, but nothing more.
 There is nothing of Sin, in speaking with a shrill or hollow
 Voice: But I love not to hear any speak to God with a
 weeping Voice, when they are not Weeping. Many of far
 more worth, than I am have fall'n into a Custom of this
 way of speaking in Prayer: Therefore far be it from me to
 judge Them, or speak Evil of them, especially in this Day,
 wherein many of the Lord's People are offended one at ano-
 ther, for Things of no weight. O to see and feel that Love
 among them, which looketh no Evil, but judgeth well of all
 Things, except of what is sinful; and yet we may hate the
 Sin, and truly love the Person. The Eye doth not hate the
 Hand, because there is a Spot upon it: Children have their
 Spots. O what would become of us, if the Spotless Majesty
 of God had no more Love to us, than we have to one ano-
 ther, but this is our dampness, and the Master of our joy,
 that our Thoughts are not as our Thoughts: In Love He

wereth, and doish away our Iniquities: But often we cannot pass by the Failings of each other, and live in Love here with these, with whom we shall live eternally in Heaven, in a full and perfect Harmony, every one rejoicing in the Happiness of another, *And so as it were making it their own.* We should be as *Members of one Body* in this lower Life, but we will be somewhat nearer, and more Unite, in that glorious Life above. When ever the Mind is lifted up to behold these Things of that *Eternal and Incorruptible Kingdom*, then it wondereth, that ever the Thoughts should wander, or take pleasure any where else. Now my Children, often when I am minding these lasting Things, my next Thoughts are: O to have you all assur'd of that Life. O! that *CHRIST* were yours, and every one of you were *HIS*, when you find that you can be happy no where else, which you may easily do after Search, then run to *HIM* for *LIFE*, and *SALVATION*; give *HIM* your *whole Heart*, for he will have no Partner. They who know Him do hate so much as a thought of setting up of a Fellow beside him, They who are truly *His Temples*, will not desire a *Dagon* beside Him. His Glory, which filleth Heaven and Earth, and yet is not contained within these, may soon fill our little narrow Temples. Try your Love to Him, by your Love to the Brethren, *who are begotten of Him*. I never think my Self right, until I find not only this Love to all the People of my God, but also even to all the common World a Tenderness in my Heart toward them; So that when I am in a right Frame of Spirit and have the Spirit of Truth moving in me, then if I hear any poor Child weeping, though I know them not, yet my Heart is mov'd toward them, as if they were mine own; and not only so, but I then also love mine Enemies, and Persecutors, and all the Creatures of God: So that I cannot take the Life from the least creeping Thing, or a *Midge* that doth see. My Children thus do I make my self known to you that you may be in so far the Followers of me, as I am of my Lord and Master Jesus Christ. O! let Him only be your perfect Pattern, especially now, when many are saying, *I here is Christ, and lo there.* O search out with all Diligence where He is, and abide with Him, where he maketh his Flock to rest.

S E C T. XXXVII. October 25th. 1665.

THE Lord reveal'd His Purpose to *Abraham*, Gen: 18. Chap: Because he knew, That *Abraham* would command his Children after him to keep the Way of the Lord, when he was gone, and gathered to his People. Certainly whosoever do truly feel the Sweetness of this Way, do desire to hold forth the Excellencie thereof; Not only to their Children and dearest Relations; But also would gladly have the framed World to be a Sharer, with them in the same Salvation. There is Envy among the Courtiers of the Kings of the Earth, and they desire none to be Shakers with them in their Prince's Favour, but there is no such Thing among the Favourites of the King of Heaven; For when they cannot get him glorified, as they would, nor others stir'd up so to do. Then they cry out to the Heavens, Earth, Depths, and to all that is within these. TO PRAISE HIM, who is Goodness it self: And this is one Evidence of his Goodness, That he not only alloweth me to be happy, but also doth let me know, That it is most acceptable to HIM, That I should, after *Abraham's* Example, stir up my Children (when I have laid down this Tabernacle of Clay) to be Partakers of Happiness with me, and with all these, who are Heirs of *Abraham's* Faith. And now in Obedience to my God, I leave what is said in this Book to you my Children, for whom I have many Writings and most earnest Desires, That not one of you may be lost. O give all Diligence to make sure your Interest in God, and so fulfill your Father's Joy. I know (as much as may be known of you, so far as you are come in this World, most of you being yet very young) you love me, And I hope you will yet love me more, when gone, show forth this your Love, in obeying of me in the Lord, which assuredly shall redound to your everlasting Good. The Children of *Jonadab the Son of Rechab* were greatly commended, for performing the Words of their Father, and were held as Patterns to the Men of *Judah*, and *Jerusalem*, who refused to obey the Commandments of God himself, which he sent to them by the Prophets. Thus shall you be approved of the Lord God when you obey my Desires: Though given forth to you by me in great Weakness, And yet may be made

most

most effectual for your Good, by the free Grace and Goodness of the ALMIGHTY, who usually worketh by weak Means, *And doth call Things that are not, as if they were.*

8. The Consideration of what he may do, doth encourage me to go about this my Duty, which is as Meat and Drink to me, though a Day of fasting for you, & the Lord's Interest, & People: With all my Heart I wish you come not short in doing your Part: But may speedily break off from the Way of corrupt NATURE, SIN, and MISERY, and receive the Word and Spirit of Truth, which will lead you into all Truth; until Christ be in you, you are but as Reprobates. He is no other Way in his own, in the World, but by his HOLY SPIRIT. O! lodge nothing in your Hearts, that may hinder the Entry of, or grieve this BLESSED SPIRIT, when entered: So shall you perform your Part, and shall then assuredly find, That God will perform his Part, in giving you more than the Desire of your Hearts, Even Grace, and Glory, and every good Thing. O who would not love such a Lord? O! who would not give all away for HIM? O! sweet is the Cross, and pleasant are the Sufferings, which lead to Fellowship with Him; I find that *this is not the Place of the Christians Rest*, whose best Work is to desire more, and more of Christ's Love, but cannot bear it, when attained. Yet I must confess, that there is TRUE REST IN A SICK-BED OF CHRIST'S LOVE; PRAISE TO HIM, who is not angry, but well pleased, when I ask much of this his Love, and is more ready to give, than I am to ask. O! to be alone with Him in a Wilderness; as I may be, and some Times am, in this my Banishment: O! to desire never to converse, with any in the World, unless it be to his Glory, and for their Good: But I may indeed acknowledge, That my bodily Presence is weak, and that the Way Whereby I may profite others, you my Children, and my self also, most, is by Prayer: It should be my Burden, that I am so seldom in this holy Exercise.

S E C T. XXXV-III. November 30th. 1665.

U Pon Saturday last. there parted from me a pious Minister, deposed for not conforming, who had come from *Wales*, to see *Mr. Burgess*, and me; and the second Speaker here,

here, said, the last Sabbath, That these who had met with much Lenity, as to be confin'd, when a harder Sentence might have been inflicted, would not abuse that Lenity, by frequenting the Companies of seditious Persons, and meddling with these who are given to Changes. Thus am I the Score of those who are of base, and the Contempt of the Proud; who count it Lenity to be a Prisoner 124 Miles from my Family the nearest Way is so much: But as for me, I desire to wait on the Lord, Who cometh to judge the Earth, and will judge the World with Righteousness, and the People with his Truth. In whose Hand there is a Cup full of Mixture, which the Wicked of the Earth must take, and wring out the Dregs thereof, and drink them. But it may seem strange, how they can call honest Ministers, who are the same now that they were before, Men given to Changes; Whereas that is most applicable to them, who not long since were for Presbytrie, and the Covenant, but now are crying down that Way, which once they cryed up. So that it is evident, they are the Men, who are given to Changes, whose Doctrine is turned about with every Wind: Happy shall they be who meddle not with them. These Men think to find Salvation in the Scripture, and yet they cannot cite one Verse in all the Bible; which maketh not against them, and their Way. O! what a fearful Condition is this? There is no Peace, saith my God, to the Wicked. Upon the other Hand, the Godlie meet with nothing in the World, that doth bring them more Peace than Troubles, Afflictions, and Crosses: These are the Seed of true Joy, and the safe Harbour of the Christian; who usually is never so well as when sitting under the Shadow of the LORD's Cross, which often is his Banner of Love over them. O! I would not change my present Life (yet be the Life of Glory, which is coming) with these who have their Portion in this Life; O poor empty, and dreadful Portion. Since even their Prosperity, which is their best, is their Ruin: The bitterest Usages, and most cruel Mockings do not hinder them to praise them; and now and then hearty to pray for them. But sometimes I must pray against them, as the Enemies of God; but for them, as they are mine. This I did when I came from hearing this Discourse, on Sabbath last.

It is worth my Remembering, That the first word which fell to be my Ordinary to read, was 2 Kings 19. Chap. Which

spoken in Scripture to a Nation, may be taken, and applied to a Person. O! his Word is always seasonable to me, when I get Grace to apply it: But most of all, when I find my Need greatest. O! happy is the Soul, which hath for its *GUIDE, HIS WORD AND SPIRIT*. Sometimes, when I sit in Darkness, He is Light round about me; and Joy to me in the Midst of Sorrow. That I may close up this, and go to some other Part of his Service, even to call upon Him, for his Work and People; I advise you, my Children, to choose Him, for your *LORD and MASTER*, whom I find to be the only *CHIEF* of all the *Thousands in Heaven and Earth*: And therefore, O! how gladly would I have you to make this wise Choice; and so be eternally happy, living here in the same Faith and Hope, with your Mother and me, which is the Faith, that all these mentioned, *Heb. 11.* lived in: That with us, you may be Sharers of that Happiness for ever, in that Life of Glory. Dear Children, your Love to me now, would make you think it hard, if you and I were in one Place, after so long Absence, and yet you might not be suffered to come near me. O! think how much more dreadful it will be, if any of you shall be so miserable, as to stand on *CHRIST'S LEFT HAND*, on that great Day, and see us your Parents on our Lord's *RIGHT HAND*, and you not dare come near to us, nor so much as once touch with your unclean Hands, the lowest *HEM* of our *SHINING ROBES*, which shall be given us, being *DIPPED* in the *Blood of the Lamb*. If in Time you call upon *HIM* in Sincerity, you shall find that *HIS* Grace is free to you, even as it is to us. *GOD* grant you may do so, for it is your *LIFE*.

S E C T. XXXIX. *December 31st. 1665.*

A Though I meet with little Lenity in my Sentence from Men, yet I must confess, that I cannot but admire, when I consider how gentle in all this, God's Dealing hath been with me: For as a young Scholar, or green Soldier, he hath train'd me up from one Step to another: For at first, I was scarce able to endure a few Days Imprisonment, in the Castle of *Edinburgh*, being near my Friends, and having precious Sir *Andrew Ker*, for my Fellow Prisoner, with whom I was of one Mind. The next Step was, my being for some more

more Time Prisoner, within the Paroch of *Gordon*, having Leisure to be preparing to endure, and under go further Censure. My next Prison was the Tolbooth of *Edinburgh*, and thereafter that of this Town. Blessed be my God, who hath so taught me, as that I can endure a Prison, at such a Distance from my dear Relations, and without such a Companion as *Sir Andrew* was; though I have no Cause to complain of my present Fellow Sufferer: For both of us I trust have, and shall have Cause to bless God, for casting our Lot together: Which is, and may yet more be to our Advantage, both in our *inward* Condition; and in the Freeing us from Snares, and Temptations. O! the Wisdom of God, in ordering his Concernments, in the World, and in bringing the Plots and Devices of Enemies to nought: Yea even turning these to their Ruin, & to the Ruin of their Cause, & making them work together for his own Glory, the Good and Safety of his People, and the Establishment of his glorious Work, to which, whatever Doubtings and Fears, his chosen Ones are now under, and to all that he hath done, they shall be forced in the End, to cry *Grace, Grace*. Then it shall appear that none of his People, their Imprisonments, Confinements, Fines, Banishments and other Pressures might have been wanting: And even now when ever our Eyes are opened to see OUR KING in his Beauty, and the LAND A FAR OFF, which he hath promised to the Overcomers. O! then we would endure Ten Thousand Times more for Him. What will not the enlightened Christian undergo, that God may be glorified? It is their Happiness that he alloweth them any Way, by which they may give HIM GLORY. This same Morning, I was in some sort of Trouble, when I considered, that Angels and Saints have nothing to give unto Him, who was infinitely glorious in Himself, before these or any Thing else were created. But this was mine Ignorance, Folly, and Pride, for should not we be content to be nothing, and rejoice to have nothing, that He may be all, and that we may receive all from Him, who doth esteem himself the Richer the more we take from Him? Here I am interrupted, with the Visite of Friends.

Yesterday

S R C T. XL. December 29th. 1669.

Yesterday I was stopp'd in a large Field and yet I know not what He, by whose Spirit I desire only to be led, will give me to say of him this Morning, for it is not my Way, to think of what I am to write here before Hand, neither was it my Custom, when I had a Family to speak to, to premeditate what I was to say, or to look on the Place of Scripture, which I was to read, until I read it. Far be it from me to condemn those, that do other ways; or to ty you my Children, to follow this my Practise, which I only set down, That you may the better understand my Way, and may not wonder, when you see that this Day, I follow not forth the Purpose I left Yesterday. All have not one and the same Gift, & I desire only to use the Talent, which my God hath given me, which is so weak, yet blessed be He, for what he hath given me, that some may think it strange, that I should adventure to leave any Thing in Write, though it be only to my Children, in this wise Age, wherein very much Wisdom, Learning, and Piety, is to be found in Books: Some of these being also written by Fathers to their Children, full of many useful Instructions, and prudent Rules for them, to order their Life by, in their greatest Concernments; to wit, in their Religion, Studies, Marriage, Choice of Friends, & such like: So that that though I were able, yet it were needless for me to add any thing of that Kind, since you my dear Children, may read the best of these: But for your christian Walk, take none other Rule, but the Word of God, and pray for his HOLY SPIRIT, which will teach you all Things, until you be endued with Power from on high, account yourself very but ignorant, although you had all the Philosophy in the World. As for these Perfections, you may see the End of them; for if you could attain to Solomon's Wisdom, and Enjoyments, which you may speculate, you should then the more knowingly cry out, *All is but Vanity, and Vexation of Spirit*. And yet verily there is a Rest for the Soul, where it may enter in, and swim, but never win to the farthest End of that OCEAN of PLEASURES; and yet be satisfied, desiring no more than it hath, being able to hold no more Joy, and being fill'd with all the Fruits of GOD. Glory to him for

The Memoirs of

far ever more, who hath made Man twice happy; for when
 he had lost his first Happiness, of his *INFINITE LOVE*, He
 sent his *SON* the *LORD JESUS*, to bring poor Man
 from under that fearful Damnation, wherein he was lying;
 and to raise him up to a more sure and blessed Estate, than the
 first was. Such a Thing may be supposed, as that, if the
 Devil had known, that Man's Fall should thus have redound-
 ed to his everlasting Welfare, and to the Glory of God, he
 would not have tempted *Adam* and *Eve*; but would rather
 have suffered them and their Posterity to continue as they
 were. Many Times the subtle Enemy; and his wicked In-
 struments, are deceived, and ensnared in their own Devices. But
 to return, I am sure it will be a great Part of Angels, and
 Saints their *SONG* in *HEAVEN*, The *LORD JESUS* his
 great *SALVATION*. O! with what Height of Love, do the
 Saints there say, *FOR THOU HAST REDEEMED US*?
 We should think on what is above, that we may tune our
 low Songs the higher. Blessed be he, who esteemeth our Of-
 fering of *PRAISE*, a *GLORIFYING OF HIM*. Often
 when I think on this last Verse of the 50. Psalm, and
 when I can do no more, I repeat very frequently, that
 Word, *PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE*.

S E C T: XLI. December 13th. 1665.

I Esteem that to be a well spent Breath, which is spent in
 praising the God of all our Mercies; Happy are they
 that spend their Strength this Way, or in any other piece of
 his Service, even in this Life they shall renew it from Time
 to Time. And how comfortable will it be to them, at
 the Hour of Death? when their Consciences bear them Wit-
 nesses, that it hath been their Endeavour to spend their Time,
 and Strength in his Service; And when the Lord by his
 Spirit shall be saying to their Souls, *Come good and Faithful
 Servants*. O! the *Sick-Bed*, shall then be as the very Gates of
HEAVEN. It is one of the most Beautiful Spectacles here
 below, to see a Lively Christian lay down their old worn
 Tabernacle of Clay: Being assured not to be found naked,
 but clothed upon, that Mortality may be swallowed up of
 Life. And laying down their Bodies in the Dust, as Seed cast
 in the Ground, that it may be raised up a glorious Body.

must die before it be quickned; It is true, Elias passed not through the Natural, and usual Way, for God can, in the *Twinkling of an Eye*, make this Translation and Change: so shall it be with those of his own, who *shall be living at the Last Day, even the great Day of our LORD*. Blessed be He who gives me to expect that Day, with any Measure of *FAITH, HOPE, and JOY*. O! I am even best, when, in my Mind, I am hastening to this Day; and joining with all those who say; *even so come LORD JESUS*. O! He is coming, and with Him a glorious Train of *ANGELS and SAINTS*, who shall, in the *morning of their Day*, that it is all given to them, by HIM. O! how glad are they to be clothed with their *KINGS Livery*? But when our *KING* shall sit down upon his *Stately THRONE of JUDGEMENT*, what a dreadful Sight will that be, to all that wretched number of Prisoners, which will be brought trembling before Him, to receive from HIM their Sentence of Everlasting Condemnation, which shall so seize upon them, that they shall instantly receive the full persuasion that they shall never be happy, nor ever enjoy the least Moment's Ease or Relaxation from their Unexpressable Torment. My Children, *knowing in some Measure the Terror of the Lord*, I desire to persuade you to flee from this Terrible wrath, and *to be reconciled unto God*. A better Advice cannot be given; you, and this is even my *Last Will*, which I leave to you; which is the *the half of this Book's Title*. O! know that it is no *Bladenfome*, nor grievous Command, but it is your *Life* my dear Children. O! follow and obey the Will of the Dead: For so this will be, ere it come to your Hands. I have such Earnestness of Heart, and *Zeal of Soul* for you, in this your so great Concernment, that you need not think it strange, if I make Repetition; and so much the rather this may be, that I very seldom read what I have formerly written. The first part of the Title, is, *God's free Mercies to me*, which I know shall be recorded in Heaven amongst the everlasting Monuments of his Goodness. But I desire to set down here under mine own Hand, to you my Children, some few of these his Mercies, which I cannot Number; that you may praise him, on my behalf on Earth, when I shall be praising him above, after a more full Manner than now I can: As also, that you may be encouraged to serve the God of your Father. To ever-

any one of you that endeavoureth to do this, *I HEARTILY LEAVE YOU MY BLESSING.* But if any of you shall be so mad, as not to seek after God, To such I have no Blessing at all to leave; For how can I bless these, whom God doth not bless? For though you should have the Patience of this Earth, yet I count that no Blessing, unless the Favour of God be with it; which doth make *Poverty, Afflictions, Crosses* and even all Things Blessings. Blessed be HE, who is the *Fountain of all Mercys, for ever.*

S E C T, XLII.

January 6th. 1666.

UPON Tuesday last betwixt 11, and 12 of the Night, when I was lying down, but not fall'n asleep, I was suddenly raised with a Cry of Fire: which in a very short Time burnt a House over against this, where now I am, and have been since the 22d. of September last. A little before the Fire, the Wind arose very strong, and continued so all the Time, and blowing straight upon the House, and did endanger it more than any other, Especially my Chamber, upon which the Fire did sometimes take, that it was a Sort of Wonder, it was preserved: which Token of the Goodness of my God, I desire to keep recorded in my Heart, and to insert here. This Family by taking in my Fellow Prisoner and me, did get the ill Will of some: By which, since my Entrance in to it, I did think my Self the more concerned to pray that their *Labour of Love* might be rewarded: and not only so, but I also judge it to be my Dutie, to seek the good and Wellfare of this City, and Country, the *Land of my Captivity*, both while I am detain'd amongst them, which I know not how long may be, as also if I were remov'd from them, it were my part, to wish them well, who have shown so much love to me a banish'd Stranger. Though I count it the goodness of God, that giveth me Favour in the Sight of those, among whom I am cast: This hath been his usual way, and I set to my Witness and seal to this Truth, that He changeth not: He hath been, is now, and to the End of Time will be, with all His, in the *Furnace of Affliction*, If any enquire when is God nearest to his People, or to any one of them in particular? It may be answered, even then, when they are most in Trouble, when Waves and Billows are going over them

them, He will not let them sink; He can preserve alive under the Waters. If the most Intelligent of Men had seen *Jonah* cast over Board, into the midst of the Tempestuous Seas, within, less than an Hour thereafter, they could not, but have concluded him Dead. O! it is safe and true Wisdom, not only to let much Time pass over, but even the End of Time come, before we have any harsh Thoughts of his Dealings; for in the close of his perfect Work, we shall acknowledge that all his Ways have been Mercy, and Truth to them that Love, and fear Him: And that nothing of all that hath been done, might have been wanted: For He doth nothing in vain, and without Him a Hair cannot fall from the Heads of any of his Servants. This is not above our Faith, for when ever we know his Infinite Power, and Goodness, We will then acknowledge, that his gracious Providence, doth reach to the smallest of our Concernments, and if to the smallest, then certainly to the greatest: Therefore should we be Careful for nothing, but in every Thing make our Necessitys known to Him by Prayer, with Thanksgiving. O! that I and you my Children, may so do. I must return to what I would further say of our Delivery from the Fire, upon Tuesday's Night last: This House was gone in the Esteem of all the Beholders, & though I did see no outward Appearance of it's Safety, yet I had all the Time, scarce any Fear, but did trust in God; that He would be graciously pleased to deliver it: For which I did send up short and hasty Prayers to Him like these who cryed to the Lord, 2 Chron: 13. 14. which have been sent up in haste; and, as it's like, with some Confusion. This was the first Scripture, which I providentially read, after the Fire. As the Lord heard them, so He did poor unworthy me, and granted the broken, confused, and hasty Suits, which I did put up to Him; For all the Time I was busie in using the Means; yet it was not these, but his free Grace and Mercy that preserved this House, which I esteem more of, than Ten Times the worth of the House, for many Respects, which I will not here insert: There was also some Thing observeable in the House that was burnt, which is not fit for me to set down in Writing, only I insert this much, because I am ready, Oh! too ready, to forget his Mercys: And likewise to show that He is the Hearer of Prayers, and doth love them that love Him: And not

not only so but also doth good to those, who shew any Fav-
our to his People, when they are low in the Esteem of the
World. He will not let a Cup of cold Water, given in a
Disciple, in the Name of a Disciple, pass unrewarded. O
How many Encouragements are there, for to serve Him. How
Glory, glory to Him for ever more. O let all the Angels,
and the Saints above, and in this lower World say, Amen.

S E C T. XIII. January 21st, 1666.

I Find that a confession and Remembering of our Mercy, maketh way for the recovery of another; for since my last writing here, I received a Letter from my dearly beloved Wife, shewing me that she thought there is a good Work begun in our Son a Raker. This is amongst the gladdest News that could have come to me. In Comparison of this, what a small Thing is it to be raised up to rule over a Nation, or Kingdom of the Earth? Where are they who did once stile themselves, Kings or Rulers, could they now be known, from the Dust of the power that lived in the World with them? Some of them would be esteemed Gods when they were alive, and for this End, did cause hide their Bodies, when dead. That the People might think they were gone up into Heaven: They had good Cause so to do, for if their dead Corps had been seen, it would have well appear'd, what filthy Devils they were. Vanity of Vanities, is written upon all momentary Things: But a Work of Grace in the Heart, a Grain of the Seed of Life cast in by the Hand of God: This is of inestimable Worth, a glorious Work begun, that shall never have an End. I believe that it is thus with my Son, and I trust that he who hath begun that good Work will persevere. The little that I hear, I am bound to take as the Answer of the many Prayers, which I have put up: Many Times do I, when alone, name all your seven Names before God, begging the Salvation of your Souls; and that your Days upon the Earth, may not be spent, in following Vanities, but in serving the Lord: Though I should not within Time, get the Answer of my Desires; Yet I think it my Duty to go down to my Grave in the Hope of this, That God of his such free Grace, will do you, my Children, Good, blessed be he, who knowing my Weakness, doth think fit to give me

Part, the Answer of my Prayers, to encourage me, to ask
 more, and that in Faith, when I find him giving: And like-
 wise to comfort me now, when under the Cross, He bestow-
 eth on me the *Hundredth Fold*, which is promised with *Perse-
 cution*, and with the forsaking of any Thing for Him. O!
 how abundantly, will my short Separation, from you my
 Son, be made up, if I get you to be with me in *Everlasting
 Joys*; Into which we shall enter, if we endure to the End,
 within a few Years at most. I dare not now, when suffering
 for my Lord and Master, think my Time long, least I should
 weary of his Cross. I verily believe, That if I were taken
 up to see the *King in his Beauty*, and the happy Estate of the
 Saints above: If then it were asked at me, whither wilt thou
 presently enter into these Pleasures, or go down to the Earth,
 and do thy Lord Service, in filling up what is remaining of
 his Afflictions in thy Flesh? Yea, I am persuaded, that I
 would deny my self, and answer. I will go and bear his
 Cross, though it were for a thousand Years; for O! what
 will they not endure, *Who see him that is invisible*? but Oh!
 my Leanness, and Barrenness, especially my short Comings
 in praising him, and edifying others, by my Walk and Dis-
 course, as Occasion serves, and in reproving Evil Doers, for
 their unfruitful *Works of Darkness*. When I think on these
 my many, and great Failings, I must then say, O! to be
 gone, to that Place, *where no Sin is*. I have nothing to up-
 hold me under the Sense of mine Infirmities, but the Thought
 of this, that the free Grace of my God shall shine so much
 the more through all Eternity. O! I desire to be well con-
 tent to be nothing, *That he may be all*. My Son, I have thus
 inserted God's Goodness to you, and to me, that you may
 be encouraged to hold on your Way, which is the Way of
 Life: And if at any Time you fall slack, or through weak-
 ness, and the Power of Temptations, be turn'd aside; O!
 then remember your *first Love*, and hasten to do your *first
 Work*. This I say to you, and to all the rest of my Chil-
 dren, *Love God and keep his Commandments which are not
 grievous*; So shall you fulfil my Joy. O! that so it may
 be.

S E C T. XLIV. February 5th. 1666.

GOD hath been glorified by the Sufferings of some of His, who have been shut up in Prisons, and cut off as Martyrs, they not being known to be so, by any in the World, as that any one Soul hath been better'd by them, or by their Sufferings: Yet shall these shine, with them of the first Rank, in Glory. And certainly *Paul* would have chearfully endured all the Afflictions, which he suffered, for the Truth, although he should not have seen the *Furtherance of the Gospel*, and many Brethren strengthened by his Bonds: As is mentioned *Phil. 1. Chap.* God of his Goodness, doth give his suffering Servants to see some of the *Fruit of, their Labour*, to encourage them the more, under the Cross; as also he maketh the Persecuting of his People tend to the furthering of his Work, for to disappoint his Enemies, whom he doth take in their own Snares; and confounding their Wisdom, bringeth the contrary good out of their wicked Devices: So that all their Plottings, and Actings, tend to the Glory of his great Name, the Advantage of his Work, and to the good of his People; especially to the Joy and Comfort of these, whom He honoureth, and upon whom He doth bestow the Gift, to suffer for his Sake.

If the Spirit of Truth had not told us, that our King is graciously pleased to allow our poor emptie Suffering to be for his Sake, we could never have believed it to be so. I find it is seeming Humilitie, but true Pride, not to take all his Allowances freely. He is the Lord of all, and great Gifts do very well become his GREATNESS to give, and our Emptiness to receive. I desire hereafter never to refuse what he freely offereth, yea I can no Way glorifie Him so much, as in taking from him, and believing his Word, and receiving his Promises, though conveyed by never so weak Instruments. As upon *Friday* last, one whom I was labouring to strengthen in the Faith, was made instrumental to strengthen me under my Sufferings, by telling me, that when they were earnestly minding my Condition before the Lord, it was given them, as the Answer; Be not troubled for him, for he is one of these, of whom it shall be said, *These are they, which came out off great Tribulation, and have washed their Robes, & made*

them white in the Blood of the Lamb. The Tempter is ready to object, That my Tribulations are not great, and therefore, this is not applicable to me : But since God is pleased to count them great, who doth account of Things that are not, as though they were ; *I* believe his Word, and will give Glory to his free Grace, and give Satan the Lie. Thus shall his Temptations be frustrate, and *I* shall become stronger, through Him who strengtheneth me. This strengthening Word was brought to me, by one, who sayeth, they have got Good by poor emptie me, since *I* came hither : Which *I* insert not to boast of (God is my Witness) but that he may get Praise : For why should *I* conceal his Goodness ? When at first *I* got my Sentence to come hither, it was much upon my Heart, and hath ever since been so, That the Lord would make me instrumental for the Good of others, and that he would be pleased to bring some Good out of my small Sufferings : Which *I* thought, *I* was bound to believe, should assuredly be, though *I* should not see it within Time ; but Glory to Him, who is graciously pleased to let me see, that my Coming here, is not in vain, but for the Advantage of some here, and else where. This is *His Hundred-fold*, which he giveth me, *with Persecution in this Life*. He knoweth my Weakness is such, as that *I* need such Encouragements, to help me under the Cross, on in my Way : But Oh ! That *I* may ever lean to himself alone, and not to any of these Props, which, when lean'd to, will but prove broken Reeds, the splinters whereof will hurt the Hands. My Children, thus do *I* mention the Goodness of my God to me, that you may be encouraged to seek, and serve the God of your Father, who can provide Food for you, even in a Wilderness, and make you to rejoice under the sharpest Sufferings for Righteousness. *I* will leave at this, my true Witness, That *I* cannot enough commend the Cross of Jesus Christ, even the Joy and Peace, which it bringeth in this Life, to them, who willingly walk under it.

S E C T. XLV. *Green-know, March 10th. 1666.*

UPON the 6th. Day of February, my Friends, by their affectionate Pains, without my knowledge, did procure from the High Commission, the Change of my Confinement,

from *Elgin* to mine own House, and three Miles about, for the Payment of 200 *Lib. Sterling*, and Bond by *Stichill* and *Terrons*, for my peaceable, and inoffensive Behaviour: This Word, *Inoffensive*, did stumble me; But if I offend not my God, I need not value the groundless Offences, which Men take against me. The Order came to my Hand, upon the 20th. Day of *February*, and I came from *Elgin* on the 23d. and to this Place on *Tuesday* last, the 6th. of *March*. I had no Cause of wearying of my last Condition, for abundantly did I find my Lord and Master's Promise, *Ezek. 11. 16.* fulfilled to me. Many Times I have thought, That afterwards I should remember on that Time, which I had at *Elgin*, as one of the sweetest Times, which I have had in my Lifetime, Yea, it may be, the Thoughts of God's Goodness to me there, shall be Food to my Soul, the Remainder of my Days. Often have I walked, in the close Walk of the Chancelor's Garden 2 Hours, or more, all the Time being wholly taken up, & spent in praying, meditating, worshipping, and praising. The last Winter my usual Walk was, down the Water Side of *Lossie*, below the Town, which was so solitary, that I was never twice interrupted, by rencountering of any. Thus the recreating of my Body, was no Disturbance to my Spirit. I had never better Health, and so few Fears, and anxious Cares, as the Year past, and so full a Feeling of the Sufferings of the People of God, and of his born down Interests: As also I had more Favour in the Eyes of these among whom I was cast, than ever I could have expected. And not only did the unexpressible Goodness of my God abound toward me, in my Banishment; but the same Goodness did also attend my Family at Home, all that Time, for all which I have Cause for ever to praise the Name of my God. And now I have nothing, but hope in his free Grace, *Who changeth not*, to uphold me, under the Fears I have, that it may not go so well with me, when I am in the Midst of my Family, and Friends. My Snares and Troubles, are like to be more, and Temptations stronger; neither am I so fully within the Prayers of the Lord's People, not being so great a Sufferer, as when banished; As also the Soul, seldom or never, thriveth so under Prosperity, as it doth in Time of Adversity; especially when Sufferings are for Righteousness Sake. The Lord is ever near to his in Time of Trouble, as a present Helper to them:

And

And my poor weak Creature, such as I am, can walk cheerfully under the heaviest Cross, when he helpeth them, who never leaveth his own in the Furnace: But the strongest of the Saints cannot well bear a prosperous State: So that for this and many other Respects I have now much Cause to spend more Time in Prayer, and to be more watchful than formerly: And yet Oh! it is like, I shall have less Time to spend in these holy Exercises; because that my worldly Employments are now increased: O! for Grace to serve my God in these: And O! that I may now more than ever, mind the Afflictions of his People, and may ever with Fear possess mine Enjoyments, when I remember these (far more worthy than I) who have not the like Liberty. O! That their inward Consolations may always abound to them, from the God of their Salvation: And O! That I may ever have more of a fellow Feeling of their Sufferings, than barely to say, be ye comforted, be ye clothed, be ye fed. Of my self I can do nothing that is good; O! That he who hath brought me from the Womb hitherto, may help me to do every good Work, to the Praise of his rich free Grace. My God leave me not when I am old, and gray hair'd. O! That the Remainder of my Days in the Earth, may be a fruitful, and flourishing Time to me: And that in my Generation, I may be for the good of the Souls of others. Blessed be my God who helped me, so to be in the North: And now the Number of these to whom I may daily speak in this house is increased. O! for a large Measure of his holy quickening Spirit, & that I may make Mention of his most excellent Name, as becometh; and that we of this Family, and all these whom I have left in the North, whom I desire always to remember, and his Servants every where, I say, O that we may all worship God in the Spirit: and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no Confidence in the Flesh: According to my Yesternight Ordinary, *Phil* 3. 3. I have often thought, I would labour to instruct and exhort my Children, and Family more carefully, if I should be restored to them (as now I am) than formerly. But all my good Resolutions will prove, but the miscarrying Womb, and Seed, which never taketh Life unless God, who quickneth the Dead, give Life, and bring to Perfection: Therefore are mine Eyes toward Him, waiting for his supplying of all my Wants, who will never disappoint those, that put their Trust in Him. My Children believe in Him evermore.

Albion

The Copy of a Letter, written by Walter Pringle of Green-know, from Elgin, to his Family. Directed, for those of the House of Green-know.

My Friends,

ALthough by Violence I am put from you, yet a Necessity of caring for you is upon me, I see these Cares that are only for the Things of this Life, are but of very small Concernment: Therefore my very earnest Desire, for all of you is, that you may diligently seek after the Knowledge of God through Jesus Christ, whom to know is Life Eternal: That so you may have your Treasure in Heaven, where Moth and Rust entereth not, and where Thief and Robber cannot come. O! what a poor Life is it, for one to take Pleasure in nothing; but that, which is continually in the Power of Devils & Men: Thus it is with all these, who have not their Life hid with Christ in God. Make your Peace with Him, while yet you are upon your Way, and get him upon your Side; then you need not care for all that can be against you; Your Enemies are many and these are the most dangerous, which strive to keep you secure, in that dead Sleep. the End of which will be everlasting Torment, if in Time you awake not. These of you, who never had a true Change wrought upon your Hearts, alas, you see not the Danger you are in, nor the terrible Wrath, that is hanging over your Heads, that may fall upon you, and destroy you for ever. some Night when you ly down, before ever your Eyes open in the Morning: I see the hazard such are in, and the Longings I have after your good, do press me, to warn you, to come out of your false Peace, that you may partake of that Peace, which passeth all Natural Understanding, which the Lord Jesus giveth to every one, that asketh from Him: O! that you may be built upon Him, who is the Rock of Ages; that your Building may not be shaken, when the Winds blow, and the Storms arise; which will Ruin every one, that is not founded upon the Chief Corner Stone, which is disallowed by the foolish Builders of this World; but is precious to them, that believe: You shall never fully know

his

Worth, and Excellency. When once you receive Him, your greatest Grief will be, that you should have lived so long Time without Him : than will you love Him more for Himself, than for the Salvation which He will give you. So long as you stay at a Distance from Him, you will think in your Minds, that these Things are but Fables, but receive the Truth into your Hearts, and then you shall acknowledge, that the Thou- and part hath not, yea cannot be told you ; and then you shall not only be content to be happy your Selves alone, but shall press others also, to take a share with you : Telling them, what the Lord hath done for your Souls. O! that Christians were thus pointing out the Way one to another, Now when the Faithful Guides are remov'd into Corners, and the Blind, are left to lead the Blind. I pray that the great Shepherd of Souls may lead you, and feed you, and keep you from being driven away from Himself in this Stormy Day, I trust that my Absence from you shall not be to your Loss, but for your Souls Advantage. If my Sufferings be, through God's Goodness, made a mean of doing good to one of the least amongst you, I shall count myself a very great Gainer. The Searcher of Hearts knoweth, that the Welfare of your Souls, is dearer to me, than all mine enjoyments in this World are : Though I cannot as yet say, with the Apostle, that I would be content to be separate from the Lord Jesus for you, yet truly I am content to remain banished from you, and from my Wife and Children, if I may promote you, by these my Bonds, even tho' they should continue upon me, the few Days I have to live in this World. Your Spiritual Advantage, was that Motive, inclining me to undergo this Sentence, even next to God's Glory ; and the Salvation of mine own Soul, for I knew, that if once I should swear falsely, then my Words should scarce ever have place with you ; for I should have been, as a Tree blown up by the Roots and withered, cumbering the ground, and fit for nothing but burning. Bless'd be my God, who hath preserved me from being a stumbling Block to any of you, and hath kept me from contracting by my Practise, these Truths, which I endeavour'd, though in great Weakness, to hold forth to you : The Sum of which is this, that they and they only are fit to be Christ's Disciples, who are willing to part with every Sin, and when called to it, as now I am, with every enjoyment for Him. O! He is well

well worth Ten Thousand Times more, than all we can do and suffer for Him, who hath no need of us, or of our Service; only He is graciously pleased to allow us to be happy, in serving and enjoying Him; Who is the Prince of the Kings of the Earth, and Chief of all the Thousands in Heaven and Earth. He is altogether Lovely. He is the Heaven of his Saints, and will be their Life and Unexpressible Joy, to behold his glorious Excellency in Eternity. These whose Hearts and Tongues have been most enlarged to meditate upon, and to express his Infinite Worth, will wonder, when they shall see Him as He is, that they should have had such slender Thoughts of Him: The Souls that are enlightened with the Knowledge of Him, will be so far from being afraid, of Men, that they will be ready to say to Enemies, devise ye the sorest of Torments, and we will cheerfully go throw them for his Name's Sake. If any of you say in your Hearts, can these Things be? The best Answer that I can give you, is Come and see. I know that in any other Thing, you would trust my Word: O! believe me in this, and you shall find that it is good to draw near unto God, and that whatever the Ignorant World say, there is a Reward for the Righteous, even an exceeding and Eternal Weight of Glory. And what are their present Afflictions and Crosses? But as a little shower of Rain, which will make them find their fair Palace, and Mansion the more Hearisome, when they enter into it: Neither is all delay'd until we come there, For I may be a Witness unto this Truth that some, even in their sharpest Tryals find more sweetness in the blinks of his gracious loving Countenance, than in all the Pleasures, which this World can afford. And now since the least Allowance our Lord giveth to his own is far beyond the best Things, which the Worldlings have Moments Enjoyment of; Therefore O my dear Friends; imbrace Him, for your Lord and Master: And you who have hitherto liv'd without Him, delay no longer, but set to with all your Might, to enquire after Him, who is not far from every one of you. And now, when there are few Watch Men left but such as will smite and wound you. Ask the Daughters of Jerusalem, your Neighbours, who in some Measure know Him, and enjoy Him, where their Beloved is: Blessed be God, there are some in the Family, who may direct the rest the Way, that leadeth to Him: And it is his Allowance to you all, that you should ask at Himself, where he feedeth, and

make

maketh his Flocks to rest at Noon. Live as Strangers and Pilgrims on this Earth, & so declare plainly, that you seek a Country, & look for a City which hath Foundations, whose Builder, and Maker is G O D. If you be prevailed with to follow on to know the Lord, and be able to say in Truth, that you have none in Heaven but him, and that there is none upon the Earth, that you desire besides him; Then have I the Answer of this, and of my Prayers for you: And you shall refresh me in my Chains, and I shall joyfully praise God on your Behalf, when there is little of God to be seen, or felt, in most of the Congregat ons, esteem the more of your Assembling to worship Him in the Family. Think not the less of that Exercise, That it is performed by a Woman. I have often thought, that you would have no Loss by my Absence, so long as you have power to worship God in the Family with you. The Apostles themselves gladly received from Women, the News of our Lord's Resurrection from the Dead, as you may find. Matth. 28. Luk. 24. Joh. 20. The God of Peace, that brought again from the Dead our Lord Jesus, make you persevere in every good Work, to do his Will, working in you, that which is well pleasing in his Sight. My Love be with you all in Christ Jesus, be of good Comfort, you who hope for our Lord's Coming; Rejoice, and again rejoice, for he will come, and will not tarry, live in this Faith, Farewel.

Sic Subscrib. Wal. Pringle,

Elgin, Novem.
21st. 1665.

F I N I S.



